PIJAC ALERT: THE FARM BILL AMENDMENT WHAT “YOU” CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELVES

APRI PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

THE BULL TERRIER; FRIEND OR FOE?
NAPO’s Purpose:
To protect, promote and defend
the rights of responsible animal owners

NAPO Update 1/20/08
NAPO Welcomes Professional Breeder Organization Members

The National Alliance of Pet Owners is happy to welcome Professional Breeders Organizations to NAPO! Professional Breeders Organizations joining NAPO are: Iowa Pet Breeders Association, Professional Pet Association of Missouri, Quad States Breeders of Arkansas, Caring Pet Breeders Club, and the Premiere Dog Breeders Club and all of their members! These organizations have been instrumental in furthering NAPO’s development and support throughout its formative months.

Cathy Griesbauer, PPA President said, “It just made sense for PPA! We can’t imagine NOT being a part of a Responsible Pet Owners alliance like NAPO. One that recognizes the importance of everyone involved in the raising, the distribution, the care and well being of our pets, and our Rights to enjoy them! And we’re very happy with the outcome of NAPO’s first Breeder case. This will stand as an example for all Breeders and those that violate them.”

From the Iowa Pet Breeders Association: “Iowa Pet Breeders Association applauds the formation of a national breeder/pet owner organization. We realize the importance of this organization and its formation. We have had representatives attend the organizational meetings of NAPO and help to form the core bylaws as it was being set up. We have also voiced our support in the way of a financial contribution early in its inception. As we face increased legislative pressure from the animal rights groups we also realize the importance of having a ‘united front’ to confront these issues head on. Unfortunately our Iowa representative on the original board had to resign due to medical reasons. We look forward to having Iowa and IAPBA back on NAPO’s board in the near future. Iowa Pet Breeders supports and encourages other breeder organizations and individuals to lend their support to this organization. The future of our industry may very well depend on the ability of this national organization to represent us, and all pet owners on a national level.”

Both IAPBA and PPA had also contributed to NAPO’s support of the Mary Jo Fair case in TN, in which all the charges were dropped against the Fairs, with the aid of NAPO members and friends.

As NAPO works to fulfill its goals of involving all Responsible Pet Owners in the protection, care and defense of our rights to own our precious pets, IAPBA and PPA recognize the importance of this vital bond with NAPO. They recognize NAPO’s work to solidify a Responsible Pet Owning Community. From birth to death, a pet community made up of Breeder, Broker, Retailer, Care givers and finally the Family Pet Owner is a work of responsibility that ensures our Rights to own, and protects our Rights from those that wish to eliminate pets from our lives.

WELCOME All!

Any individual, group or anyone that would like to become members of NAPO, can contact our headquarters at: NAPO, P.O. Box 34, Bellflower, MO 63333. Membership is just $25 a year for individuals; or groups can contact NAPO about making their members NAPO members. Watch for our new website at: www.napo4u.com.
Paypal will be accepted.

******************************************

Membership fees are:
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On The Cover:
Bocephus, a ‘colored bull terrier’ who belongs to Chadd Hughes of SW Auction, is an excellent example of what great companions this breed can be and how they are so often ‘misunderstood’. Check out more about The “Bull Terrier, Friend Or Foe” on page 10
Hello, I had a chance to read your Dec. issue of the Spotlight and found it to be one of the most informative publications I have ever read! Please tell me how I can start receiving this wonderful magazine. Perhaps you could repeat certain articles since you are out of back issues. I breed and showed dogs for 17 years and I am still currently involved in the dog business, not as a breeder, but rather as a groomer traveling to various breeding kennels, keeping the dogs sheared down. I can tell you first-hand the majority of kennels are well run and producing quality puppies. Thank you again for this magazine. Keep up the good work! Pat Gean of Protection, KS.

Hi, About the new kennel laws in Wisconsin, I feel I should let people know my thoughts on how important these laws are and what effect they have on Breeders here. I think it is important that anyone selling pups should stand behind them and if a pup gets sick and/or dies after they sell it, they should at least give the money back, providing that it is the breeders' fault. Although there is sometimes room for argument, good breeders should know to do their best to settle with disgruntled buyers, thus keeping the professional breeder name and industry in good standing. If a buyer and seller can't settle the problem, then the state should have someone such as a Vet with some common sense to help settle it. I also believe it should be law that no dog over 6 months old should be transferred to a new owner without a Brucellosis test. We can't afford to take the chance. In addition to that, there should be stiff fines concerning trespassing on private kennel property particularly for people with hidden cameras, etc., and the State and Federal inspectors should be working hand in hand when inspecting kennels. This would solve a lot of Communication problems and let the inspectors focus on the problem breeders and the good USDA Breeders would not have to have 2 inspections. At the same time we want to keep our freedom as much as possible. We do not appreciate the inspectors announcing to the public that they are coming. This just gives the Animal Activists reason to TERRORIZE breeders! Fix any problems right away, don't wait for the sheriff to come and remove your animals. Too many times unqualified people make those decisions. Wallace Havens of Wisconsin

Reply from a Professional Kennel Owner & Operator on “Just what IS a Puppy Mill” in the Dec. issue:
On the “Puppy Mill” issue, I agree there are some still out there in our industry today. Just like in every business, those few hurt the rest of us. But as for me, my puppies, as well as many others in the pet industry, are ALREADY happy, healthy, KNOW WHAT GRASS IS, how to ‘PLAY’, and get treats all the time. Sometimes I have been told by my vets “not to spend too much time with that pup, he probably won’t make it,” but I never listen. I am committed to them, they are a part of my HEART and MY FAMILY so I put ALL I CAN INTO THEM to keep them alive and doing well. As for urine & feces, a ‘GOOD BREEDER’ knows how to keep their dogs and puppies clean and sanitary at all times! And as for the ‘Professional Kennel Person’, living the life they FORCED on their dogs, “oh how I wish I could someday”. Just to be lying on your back, snoring away while the cold snow is blowing outside or when we have no power for 10 days and guess what the GENERATOR is doing? Keeping those ‘live stock’ dogs warm and with fresh water pumping through those water pipes! People have come to pick up their new puppy at our ‘mill’ and many have went away calling our place, a Puppy Hotel. What a great feeling that gives me!!! Oh yes, my dogs make me a living and yes, I know they all will get old “just like us someday.” The ones I have retired are keeping someone else happy today just being their companion and friend. My heart always breaks to lose one because they ARE FAMILY AND WE TREAT THEM THAT WAY. As Mr. Hughes said, “There is 2 sides to every story and this is mine. God Bless You All!” Maxine Gray of Purdy, Mo.

Another response on the “puppy mill” article from the Dec. issue: “I would like to commend you for the way you answered the letter from Kathy Shank. People like her and the many, many others just show their Ignorance by believing everything the Animal Activists say. They need to do their homework! She needs to make a visit to a “Puppy Mill” and then to a reputable licensed breeder and then write to you and tell you what she saw that is different about the two. I would like for her to see the many vet bills that I have paid in the past and for the medications and vaccinations and toothbrushes, etc...that I have here in order to treat my animals like living, breathing beings. I not only have dogs, but some cats, cattle and horses and they receive the best of care and I love all of them dearly! After all, they are all gods creations! I am a reputable licensed breeder and I DARE for anyone to call us a “Puppy Mill!!!” People like Kathy believe what they hear, but do not want to see what is real! I feel sorry for people like her and the many, many others!!! May God Bless their Souls!! Keep up the good work. I look forward to every issue of the Spotlight. GOD BLESS YOU!!
- Signed Anonymous

REPLY TO LORI ADAMS QUESTIONS ABOUT BLUE AND GOLD YORKIES. In regards to Lori Adams question about blue and gold yorkies, that is the correct color to show them in an AKC dog show. I have some but never thought it rare. AND ABOUT THE NEW KENNEL SMELLING because of a concrete floor and dogs messing in there: After our fire, we built a new facility with long in and out runs so dogs have ample room inside to eat, drink and play. They too, like to go inside but we use wood shavings first and shredded paper on top for bedding. The wood shavings kept it from smelling and makes it easy to scoop out. If dogs have a lot of room inside then it’s hard to keep them from messing in there. Byllis Diaghe, Silich Kennel, Forrest City, IA
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The Bully Terrier; Did you know?

The Bully Terrier, formerly known as a “Bulldog/Terrier cross” gained popularity among the sporting groups during the early 1800’s. These crosses combined the determination and courage of the Bulldog with the natural agility and intensity of the terrier. Around 1860, James Hinks, a Birmingham, England dog dealer-developed the breed into a more refined version distinguished by its all-white coat. In developing the Bully Terrier early records indicate that Hinks may have added Dalmatian and Greyhound to the mix. By 1897 the popularity of the breed had spread across the Atlantic and thus the Bully Terrier Club of America was formed and by the early 1900’s, breeders were crossing their Bully Terriers with the Staffordshire to introduce color to the breed. The “Colored” was recognized as a separate variety of Bull Terrier in 1936 although the standard for the white or colored variety is the same. Bull Terriers are described as being “active,” with a keen and determined expression which is often confused with being ‘unapproachable’, when in fact they have a very sweet disposition and love attention. They are usually ‘misunderstood’ due to their reputation for being aggressive towards other dogs and have been targeted by breed-specific legislation. Bull Terriers are strong and can be very willful but handled correctly they are playful, fun-loving family companions and they thrive on their owner’s love and attention.

“Bocephus” who is pictured in this article is a great example of what a friendly and lovable companion this breed can be. Chadd Hughes, who purchased “Bo” as a young puppy, has taken him everywhere and he has never shown any aggression towards anyone, contrary to popular belief. He loves children, especially Chadd’s daughter, Hadley, who is 2 years old. Bull Terriers can be a wonderful addition to anyone’s family if given the chance!
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Peg Williams of Ava Missouri has sent us a report written by Jane Williams for the January issue of “American Family Voice. Excerpts from this article as follows: At the National ID Expo in Kansas City, the president of Arkansas Animal Producers’s Assn., Micheal Steenbergen asked, “What safety studies have been conducted on the chips that are inserted into animals?” His question was met with total silence. Did these researchers know or were they unwilling to admit that research has confirmed that implanted microchips have been known to cause cancer.

Dr. Melvin T. Massey, DVM from Brownsboro, Texas, brought this to the attention of the American Horse Council when he refused to use microchips in his horses. Hanover Medical School in Germany has reported, microchips implanted subcutaneously in 36 mice, a neoplasm occurred in the area of the implanted microchip. Firm, pale white nodules with the microchip in the center were found. Macroscopically, soft tissue tumors such as fibrosarcoma and malignant fibrous histiocytoma were detected. A French lab has reported fifty two subcutaneous tumors associated with microchips collected from mice. Two of these 52 tumors were adenocarcinoma of the mammary gland.

An Italian lab reported examining a 9 year old male French bulldog with a subcutaneous mass located at the site of a microchip implant. The mass was confirmed as a high grade infiltrative fibrosarcoma with multifocal necrosis and peripheral lymphoid aggregates.

The Toxicology Department of Bayer Corporation in Stillwell, Kansas reported “Tumors surrounding implanted microchip animal identification devices were noted in two separate studies using rats. Incidence was only 1 percent but did require the sacrifice of the detected animals.”

In all of these studies the tumors were found in the second year and were located at the site of the microchip implantation and contained the imbedded microchip device. All contained the following types of infections; malignant schwannoma, fibrosarcoma, anaplastic sarcoma and histiocytic sarcoma.

Editors note: The Kennel Spotlight neither endorses nor condemns the use of microchips nor the above studies to show a bad light on this very convenient way to identify and therefore recover lost pets. We are not in favor of government compulsory regulations known as NAIS. This is just one more reason to allow the breeder or owner of the animal to chip or not to chip as he pleases. For more information, go to www.vetpathology.org, also look in the National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health or simple google “sarcomas associated with implanted microchips”
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For years this word has been passed around as something that is seen occasionally in large breed dogs, but what is hip dysplasia and what can be done to prevent it? Hip dysplasia is literally arthritis of the hip joints. Hip dysplasia is considered to be an inherited disease since hip conformation is passed down from the dam and sire to the puppies. The hip joint is a ball and socket joint, so the more of the ball that is covered by the socket, the less likely the dog is to develop hip dysplasia. Evaluation of hip joint conformation is very difficult to diagnose without x-rays. Manual palpation of the hip joint can be done but many poorly conformed hip joints may feel “tight” at 8-12 weeks of age. There have been many discussions about the Hereditary aspect of hip dysplasia and if any other factors such as body condition, can affect the dog. Purina Foods did a study with a litter of Labradors in which they split up a litter of puppies and kept 1/2 the litter in an obese condition (>5 body condition score) and the other 1/2 of the litter in low lean body condition (<5 body condition score). This study showed that by keeping the dogs in a lean body condition, that it lessened or prevented the development of osteoarthritis (hip dysplasia). This same result has been proven in several published articles in the Journal of Veterinary Medicine. It is very important to understand that the dogs kept in “lean” body condition are not kept “skinny”. These dogs were just kept in the appropriate healthy body condition in which the ribs can easily be palpated (not seen!). This study is also not saying that hip dysplasia is strictly caused by obesity, hip dysplasia is primarily a hereditary disease. So what can be done about preventing the hereditary part of hip dysplasia? The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals is a non-profit organization of board certified radiologists located in Columbia, Missouri that will evaluate x-rays of the hip joints that are taken at your local veterinarian and give you either certification that the hips joints are excellent, good, fair, or dysplastic (hip dysplasia). It is recommended to not breed dogs with dysplastic hips. By having your dogs hips evaluated you can significantly decrease your rejects and claims for hip related problems. OFA offers certification of hips beginning at 24 months of age. They also offer preliminary x-rays at a very young age which can be very valuable when choosing breeding stock. Many of the puppy distributors will pay a bonus or premium for puppies that have come from an OFA certified sire or dam. Breeders selling their pets out the door or direct to the pet stores can also benefit from this value by having less claims on their puppies and by greater profit margins when the OFA certification is properly marketed. I recommend evaluating your male dogs first to maximize the amount of pups from a certified parent. Once your males are done and you are familiar with the process of OFA, it is very advisable to certify your females as well. Taking the x-ray of the animal is a very simple procedure that does involve giving the dog a sedative then taking the x-ray. The entire process only takes appx. 15 minutes. The results typically take 8-12 weeks to get back. Cost of evaluation by OFA is $35 per evaluation or $15 per evaluation if you send in 5 or more at the same time. Pricing for the procedure (anesthesia/x-ray) will differ among vets, but we offer the procedure for $60.00 per animal.

If you have any questions please contact:
Dr. Samuel L. Harkey (417) 442-PETS (7387)
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Common breeds affected with hip dysplasia:

1) English Bulldog  74% bad
2) Pug  63% bad
3) Dogue de Bordeux  56% bad
4) Neopolitan Mastiff  49% bad
5) St. Bernard  47% bad
6) Cane Corso  40% bad
7) Basset  36% bad
8) French Bulldog  34% bad
9) American Bulldog  33% bad
10) Newfoundland  26% bad
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Once again, another Lakeland Terrier, FLYING DIAMOND ROSE PETAL, owned by Tracy Henderson of Exeter, Missouri, took top honors as APRI Distinguished Champion, as well as a total of $4,500 in prize money, at the fourth annual America's Pet Registry, Inc. Parade of Champions. Ms. Henderson has a superb record of excellence in her breeding program, as was clearly demonstrated by her second win of the Distinguished Champion title for one of her beautiful Lakeland Terriers. Winners of the Distinguished Champion title retire from competition at the Parade of Champions, but we can look forward to beautiful puppies. Tracy’s dedication to her excellent breeding program speaks for itself. Held December 8th at Fort Smith, Arkansas in the beautiful Expo Center of Kay Rodgers Park, this premiere show of champions was yet another celebration of beautiful purebred dogs, spotlighting the superior work being done by APRI breeders. APRI, one of the foremost purebred dog registries in the country, is proud to be represented with such excellence by champions from across the country. Including the top award, APRI has donated $8,000 in prize money for the top three places in each group in this prestigious show. Competing in the final judging with the winning Lakeland Terrier were beautiful dogs from each of the other groups represented at the show. Toy winner was Havanese MAX-ANITA’S MATTIE MARIE owned by Juanita Kimbrough of Drexel, Missouri; Herding winner was also a repeat group winner— Shetland Sheepdog GERARDI’S ACE IN THE HOLE, owned by Cathy Gerardi of Dixon, Missouri. Cathy also placed in the Terrier group with her Lowchen Ella; Hound group winner was Ibizan Hound SERANDIDA’S SPIRIT OF KALA, owned by Shawn Cooper of Longview, Texas. Shawn also owns the third place dog, one of her beautiful Whippets, in this group. She also had three dogs in the finals of the group, as she did in the '06 Parade. Each of these group winners went home with a trophy and $500 in prize money, as well as the bragging rights of group winner at the APRI Parade of Champions. Other cash prizes were offered to 2nd ($300) and 3rd ($200) in each group. Other place winners in the groups were as follows:

**Hounds & Sporting**

**2ND WEIMARANER: MIDWEST DREAM BEAUTY BORN BIRDY ABBY**
OWNER: RONALD AND RHONDA GRIMM OF MECHANICSVILLE, IOWA

**3RD WHIPPET: SILHOUETTE’S SWEETEST SIN**
OWNER: SHAWN COOPER OF LONGVIEW, TEXAS

**TOYS**

**2ND PEKINGESE: SLASH C’S CHU SHANG OF LARO**
OWNER: ZOE NORRIS OF HENDERSON, TEXAS

**3RD POMERANIAN: JOSEPH’S BUZZ LIGHTYEAR**
OWNER: MARILYN JOSEPH OF AVA, MISSOURI

**TERRIERS & NON SPORTING**

**2ND LOWCHEN: MARQUIS ENCHANTED ELLA OF GERARDIS**
OWNER: CATHY GERARDI OF DREXEL, MISSOURI

**3RD MINIATURE SCHNAUZER: LASHLYN ACRES WINSTON CHURCHILL**
OWNER: RENEE FREEMAN OF ROLAND, OKLAHOMA

**WORKING & HERDING**

**2ND BOXER: DANDRIE’S CAUGHT YA LOOKIN**
OWNER: DANIEL VARGAS OF MORRISON, ILLINOIS

**3RD BELGIAN TERVUREN: XERXES, GUARDIAN OF FIRE**
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The continuing excellence of the dogs we see in the Parade of Champions was amply demonstrated by the closeness of the scoring. It is remarkable that most of the places within each group were decided by tiebreakers, most of them between more than two dogs in each group. Several judges mentioned the quality of all the dogs in each of the groups. These judges, with many years of combined judging experience, remarked that any of the dogs showing could have represented APRI as the Distinguished Champion. Several times, as we tabulated winners, we saw “Wow!” in the judging comments. Most of the dogs represented at the show have legs on or have earned the Par Excellence title, which indicates perfect scores throughout their show career with APRI. America’s Pet Registry, Inc. offers its congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all the participants who brought such wonderful dogs to our show. Congratulations again to Tracy Henderson and her 2007 Distinguished Champion Lakeland Terrier, FLYING DIAMOND ROSE PETAL. We encourage everyone to register their purebred dogs with APRI and come join the shows offered by local clubs throughout the country. A 2008 show schedule is available at our web site, aprpets.org or from the APRI office, (479)299-4418. The champions who are made at those shows, as well as all existing champions, are eligible to be a part of next year’s Parade of Champions, scheduled for December 13, 2008 at the same location.

Photos courtesy of
Charlotte Rhoades
APRI show coordinator

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David and Kay Miller of Oronogo, Missouri have long been known for their exceptional Maltese and Yorkshire Terriers. The Miller Maltese puppies are widely known throughout the retail world and are highly sought after for their excellent breed representation. Remarkably, even though the Miller’s are more recognized for their Maltese, they did not start out with that breed. About 30 years ago while living in Carthage, Mo. their youngest son, Michael, was diagnosed with asthma. “I had heard about an old wives tale of Chihuahua’s being good for asthma patients so I decided to get a shorthair male and when I brought him home, he immediately ran to Michael and jumped on his chest,” stated Kay. “I know no one would probably believe this, but he really did help his asthma!” Unfortunately he later ran away and Kay was never able to find him so she went out and purchased a male from a friend along with two females. Kay then went on to breed them and they had 6 puppies each which she sold for $90 a pup. “I was so delighted with taking care of those babies I decided I wanted to raise dogs full time. David thought I was crazy!” Kay started looking at ads in the paper and saw one for a breeder that was selling out of their Yorkies and Maltese. “I had always wanted a Yorkie like the one Zsa Zsa Gabor had on the TV show Green Acres,” laughs Kay. When the Miller’s went to look at the breeder’s Yorkies, Kay immediately fell in love with the Maltese. “They were just like little white fur balls and I just had to have them!” They ended up purchasing the entire breeding stock consisting of 2 male/12 female Maltese and 1 male/5 female Yorkshire Terriers. During the next 10 years, they continued to improve and expand their kennel to include Toy Poodles until tragedy struck the Miller family and Kay’s brother was killed in an auto accident. “It was so sudden and I grieved over him so heavily that I just lost interest in the dogs. We ended up selling them to David’s dad Earl, who was also raising Yorkies and Maltese at that time.” Over the next 4 or 5 months though, Kay began to miss the dogs terribly. “I realized I loved those dogs more than I knew so I had to buy them back. Then in ’91, we decided to move to Oronogo to David’s parents farm to help take care of his mom who had Alzheimers.” His sister lived in another house on the property next to his parents and wanted to move, so David and Kay bought her house. “At that time, we had one small kennel building and a shed which David converted to another kennel to house the Poodles.” Later, when David’s dad Earl passed away, they took over his 25x100 kennel building which housed 100 Yorkies and Maltese. Then in May of 2003, a devastating tornado came through southwest Missouri and the Miller’s farm. It destroyed the big kennel building and other small structures and caused severe damage throughout the property. “I lost 17 puppies and 10 adults including my favorite poodle male, Shadow. I was just devastated! I broke down and cried when I saw one of my females that was trying to get out her door was killed when the building collapsed on her.” The Miller’s didn’t know what they were going to do. “Everything was gone. We didn’t have a clue how we could care for the dogs and or even where they would sleep. David was sure we would have to sell everything until a miracle came to our rescue in the form of Andrew Hunte of the Hunte Corporation, a close personal friend, and he stepped in and offered to house our dogs at his breeding facility in Goodman, Mo. He took complete care of them from whelping to the day the puppies were eight weeks old and ready to sell. We have always sold our puppies to Hunte so it made it very convenient for us. Between Mr. Hunte and the many friends who came to help us cleanup and rebuild, we were able to get back on our feet. They were truly a blessing!”
Since then, the Miller’s have built back their facility and now have 200 dogs. They are currently undergoing construction to include a new whelping building and an addition to the adult pens. Their breeding stock still consists of Maltese, Yorkies and Toy Poodles although David plans of adding another breed. “My ultimate goal is to double in size and involve our sons who have taken an active interest in the family business,” states David. “I want to be able to leave this business to them someday and retire to our house on Grand Lake and spend our time fishing.” The Miller’s daily operation consists of David “hands on” in the construction as well as overseeing and maintaining the kennel buildings and keeping them at a constant temperature with forced heat and air. Kay, along with the help of a full time employee, do most of the daily chores with the dogs, although David likes to do the feeding of the “wheat germ oil” supplement they put on the adult dry food weekly. “It really helps the hair coats and keep them from getting that dry, scaly skin.” Kay does a very close puppy inspection and washes their “bottoms” daily to prevent feces from sticking and staining their fluffy coats. “I am very strict when it comes to my vaccination and worming protocol and I like to handle all the medications myself. It’s not that I don’t trust anyone else, I just feel like it is my responsibility and I want to know that the proper medications have been given.” Kay keeps very detailed records on breeding and whelping and has scheduled ‘female’ checks for heat cycles every Monday. When her females come into heat she puts them with a male for 3 weeks and makes sure that all of her adults are shaved down for ease of breeding and cleanliness. “Most of my females whelp naturally and I don’t like to stand over them unless they really need my help. I like to keep them as quiet and relaxed as possible so they whelp calmly and are focused on taking care of their babies. When I start weaning the pups at 6 1/2 weeks, I start separating them at 15 minute intervals and steadily increase the time each day so they don’t stress so much.” During this time she feeds a ground puppy food mixed with a ‘liver and buttermilk mixture’ which Kay says helps with the ‘tear staining’. She uses one piece of liver and mixes it with buttermilk in a blender and the puppies readily lap it up daily. “There is something about the liver that seems to help with the pigment around the eyes and they don’t seem to have as many tear stains.” She also puts this mixture and a little canned food on her mother’s dry food when they first whelp to keep their appetite up until they are finished weaning. The Miller’s puppies are always known for being happy and well socialized due to their daily handling and care. “David and I are strong believers in daily handling and affection for our puppies, we want the families who buy them to enjoy them as much as we do.” On a personal note, I have had the privilege and honor of knowing the Miller’s for the past 10 years and can attest to the care and personal attention they give to each of their dogs. David and Kay are two of the finest people I know and have become part of my family throughout the years. They are a shining example of what a Professional Breeder should be and we wish them continued success for many years to come. A special Thank You to the Miller’s for allowing us to feature them in this issue of The Kennel Spotlight.
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Jesse, age 2, takes Doc Roy’s Liquid B+Iron to help recover from a recent injury. He also takes Doc Roy’s Daily Care Canine Tabs.

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Before I tell you what you likely won’t believe, let me assure you that much more will follow. This is only a primer background. Setting the stage so you can connect the dots as you learn about new legislation that goes into effect this summer. Just like PAWS, it will take a lot of education and initiative from animal owners or it’s a done deal. Call it dots, call it knots, call it a marriage made in hell, a genuine conspiracy. You can even call some of the most learned educators in the country nut cases. But read, then call your friends! The National Animal Identification System has finally sprung a leak but has yet to reach the public. One has to wonder why it has been suppressed by the media. What have you seen on television? Have you read anything in the newspaper? What about in Dog News and other show magazines? Hardly! Do you even know anyone else who knows about this? Were it not for Richard and Michele Shannon (smokeyly@toledotel.com) and Mary Zanoni, Ph.D (Cornell), J.D. (Yale) mlz@slc.com, The Dog Press would not have been on top of this story. I promise you the media either does, will know, or you will know who is in denial. Fair enough?

Part of the story is the way in which it has been kept quiet. Can you imagine the networks ignoring a new law that mandates satellite tracking of every food animal, even a chicken raised for the family’s own consumption? Can’t you hear Rush Limbaugh’s monologue? “The chickens are out! Call a Democrat!” Seriously, every time a pleasure horse leaves the owner’s premises, the government will know when and where it went and failure to report it can bring stiff penalties!

Bill O’Reilly, where are you? Did you know that every piece of property on which resides a food animal must be registered in Big Brother’s database? Did you know that detailed information about the property owner will be part of that database? Who kept this story from Sean Hannity? The guy who broke the figures on the Gulf Coast cleanup needs to know NAIS forebodes even more staggering costs, part of which would be the massive tracking database. Hannity? Listen up! The database is to be “privatized” i.e. run by someone other than the government. You covered the clamor on Haliburton? That story was like the Red Cross getting donations compared to who will get this contract? Who dreamed up NAIS and for what reason? This is not speculation. Some lucky company will recoup costs by selling “private” information about the premises owner and their habits! County Fair enthusiast? Polo anyone? It will of course record where and for how much he sells his horse, cow, pig, ducks, etc.. Oh…

Why has this been kept so hush-hush? Why hasn’t the secrecy/privacy issue crossed the aisle of political debate? Probably for the same reason PAWS never made media news. There’s plenty of payback to go around. According to the popular new blog some politicians are connected to PAWS and NAIS through a tenuous but not surprising link. You know the old saying, “follow the money” but if they don’t need the money, just follow the power and egotism as it winds ` round about through stupidity and disinformation’. For Politicians, the path to power is as crowded as a Sunday morning jogger routes in Central Park! Here’s the connection. If you haven’t yet heard of Digital Angel and Senator Rick Santorum, you are on another planet and can’t read this anyway. But the rest of you savvy dog people know that the good Senator is the power behind what The Dog Place mistakenly called “the worst threat to dog breeders in history.

Wrong on two counts: There is a newer, greater threat to all animal owners and Santorum seems willing perhaps anxious to abdicate his throne on PAWS to Senator Durbin. Perhaps there’s more prestige connected with at position on the Board of Directors of Applied Digital Technologies, the parent company of Digital Angel. And what do you ask, does Digital Angel have to do with PAWS, and now this new thing, this NAIS? Okay, the first answer is to be found in this self-description: “Digital Angel Corporation develops advanced RFID and GPS technologies that enable rapid and accurate identification, location tracking, and condition monitoring of all high value assets. Applications for our products include identification and monitoring of pets, humans, fish and livestock through our patented implantable microchips as well as message monitoring of aircraft in remote locations through integrated GPS and geosynchronous satellite communications systems.” Now you can see how enforcement of PAWS would profit a microchip company and you know how one thing leads to another…

After microchip technology to “protect our pets” and “stop the importation of masses of foreign dogs” there comes GPS tracking of every living thing on the planet. Wow, forget about the millions of dollars to be made from convincing USDA to institute and enforce PAWS, and don’t even count the profit potential for “not for profit” organizations like AKC who it seems has already agreed to take some of the burden of inspections off the USDA. For a price of course. Whoops, does that mean either way, the taxpayer pays? Yup! And so does the dog breeder, private or commercial. We predict inspection fees will be quickly instituted but that’s another story.

NAIS is here now. It is already implemented on a voluntary basis in many states and is scheduled to really roll by THIS SUMMER. The same legislation crafters and backers who invented PAWS only took a tiny little stumble when dog people said “no, we ain’t gonna roll over and play dead.” They just hitched up their pants, dumped a few more bucks to the lobbyists and PR machines and quietly proceeded to where the real money is. How many chickens and pigs are there in the civilized world? Can’t count that high? Okay, then how many cows in Texas? Okay let’s narrow the chip thing down to just a tiny little country like—umm, how about Portugal? Chew on this a minute, it’s from a Digital Angel press release: “The Portuguese dog identification program is being conducted in conjunction with the country’s annual rabies vaccination drive. The Portuguese ministry was prompted to undertake the project because other countries in Europe had experienced excellent results..The deadline for all of Portugal’s approx. 2 million dogs to be identified and registered in a

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FARM BILL AMENDMENT EXPANDS ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

The Issue.
A proposal to amend the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is poised for Senate passage after being submitted by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) in the form of an amendment to the “Farm Bill” (H.R. 2419). It is one of numerous (unrelated) provisions being included in SA 3500 and would amend the AWA in several different respects. Some of the provisions of this initiative mirror the Pet Animal Welfare Statue (PAWS) on which PIJAC testified during the last Congress, but others are new, principally those creating a restriction against importing dogs and cats for the pet trade and certain persons selling dogs and cats directly to the public.

The Impact.

THIRD PARTY INSPECTORS
One of the controversial provisions of PAWS was institution of a third-party inspector system; a concept that was carried over into the new legislation. USDA would be required to adopt regulations providing for certification of non-profit organizations “that the Secretary [of Agriculture] determines to have standards and inspection protocols that are at least as protective of animal welfare as those promulgated by the Secretary” for those licensed under the AWA. When and if one or more such organizations are certified, USDA licensees could elect to be inspected by the third-party inspector rather than USDA. The proposal explicitly provides that no regulated person would be required to accept third-party inspection.

The proposal carries various requirements for certified third-party inspectors, including a requirement to recertify every three years, submit an annual report summarizing inspection activity, and to notify the Secretary of any person they inspect whose conduct places the health of an animal in serious danger or who fails to comply with established standards. It is unclear what standards might qualify as acceptable under a third-party inspector; the language of the legislation only requires that the standards be “at least as protective,” a subjective mandate that could permit different standards as long as they are deemed to be equal in effectiveness.

RETAIL PET STORE DEFINITION
A modification of the “retail pet store” exemption would change who must be licensed under the AWA. Currently, retailers generally do not have to be licensed under the Act. USDA has long included in the definition of a retail pet store all retailers of dogs and cats (those selling pets directly to the public and not at wholesale), an interpretation that has been upheld by the courts. However, this legislation explicitly excludes people that are now included in the definition, such as (1) people who breed dogs or cats for sale and (2) people who import dogs or cats for sale. These people would now become regulated under the Act.
A separate *exemption* would exclude breeders from regulation as long as they sell only at retail (not to others for resale), do not import dogs and cats for resale, and sell no more than 25 dogs and cats not bred on their premises or no more than 25 dogs and cats that they do breed on their premises, or the dogs or cats from no more than 6 litters (whichever is greater).

An “importer” is defined as anyone who “in commerce, for compensation or profit, delivers for transportation, or transports, buys, sells or negotiates the purchase or sale of any dog or other animal for research, teaching or exhibition; any dog or cat at wholesale or retail; or any dog or cat imported into the U.S. for resale” except that it also includes “anyone importing a dog or cat for resale.” This literally would mean that persons who sell only domestically bred animals would be characterized as an “importer” although it is not clear that was the intent.

Further, animal shelters, rescue organizations, or any other person “that does not operate for profit” would be exempt from regulation. This means that shelters or rescue organizations that import dogs or cats for the purpose of resale, and net profits from that operation, would be exempt from regulation as long as the organization is characterized under law as a ‘non-profit.’ The existing retail pet store definition would also be revised to require that a retailer maintain “physical premises” open to the public, from which the retailer directly sells pet animals. This means that internet retailers would become regulated, unless they also maintain physical premises from which they sell to the public (i.e. a “brick and mortar” pet store that also sells dogs or cats via internet).

**IMPORT BAN FOR PET TRADE**

In addition to the requirement that importers become regulated, the legislation would strictly prohibit imports of dogs for resale that are under 6 months of age. Because shelters and rescue organizations are exempt, they would still be legally permitted to import and sell puppies. The effect of this ban is that residents of the state of Hawaii would no longer be able to buy pet puppies that weren’t actually bred in the state since, as a rabies-free state, Hawaii does not permit imports of puppies bred elsewhere in the United States. Currently, imports of puppies into Hawaii for resale come exclusively from rabies-free countries. PIJAC has had ongoing discussions with the sponsor concerning inclusion of language that would permit Hawaii to continue importing puppies from rabies-free countries.

The legislation justifies this ban with findings that “conditions under which puppies are transported into the United States for resale are frequently inhumane” and “there is an unacceptably high incidence of disease and death among puppies imported into the United States for resale,” although there is no evidence documenting the validity of these findings.

**ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS**

While PIJAC objected to a number of provisions in the PAWS legislation, it did support certain provisions that would enhance the ability of USDA to enforce the existing act. This legislation includes language from PAWS that permits USDA to temporarily extend suspension of the license of someone whose activities are putting an animal in serious danger, and to seek injunctions against people are acting as dealers without a license.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Because this legislation is being introduced as an amendment to an existing bill (the Farm Bill), it is not required to separately go through any committees. The *Farm Bill* has already received favorable vote of the *House of Representatives* and is now on the floor of the Senate awaiting a final vote. Following Congressional approval of the conference committee report, the bill will be forwarded to the *President* for action. The last opportunity to wade in on provisions of Senator Durbin’s amendment prior to a *Senate* vote will Require direct contact with your U.S. Senator. Note that action on this proposal may occur any day! Should you desire more information about the proposed provisions contact PIJAC’S Michael Maddox by phone at 202-452-1525 or email at mmaddox@pijac.org.

“Animals are such agreeable friends
They ask no questions, they pass no criticism”
– George Eliot, Author: Mr. Gilfil’s Love Story

100% of PIJAC’s work benefits pets, the pet industry, and responsible pet owners.
Arlington, Texas (Karen Snider’s case): If I told you armed men with guns forced their way into our home, handcuffed my husband and assaulted me, you might think I had been watching too many TV crime dramas; I lived in another country; or I was insane. This is exactly what happened to us in Arlington, Texas, July 1994. We were not a drug bust. We were not murderers. We were ordinary human beings who bred, showed and sold Himalayan cats. We had not been cruel, negligent, or otherwise abusive to our animals. We were a nationally advertised Himalayan cattery. We had raised and exhibited the cats for over fifteen years. It began following a Halloween cat show in Ft. Worth in October 1993. We suddenly became the object of a harassment campaign. I was told an anonymous female caller began calling Arlington offices and the Humane Society in Ft. Worth weekly. The complaint was that I supposedly had "sick and dying cats and kittens living in deplorable conditions and authorities needed to do something about it". We had no idea who the mystery female caller was. We finally allowed two inspections and no citations were issued. Months later, animal control personnel with armed guards forced their way into our home with guns. There was no notice, no due process, no just compensation as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. I was awakened by loud voices and car doors slamming. Animal control personnel and armed guards forced their way into our home with guns. There was no notice, no due process, no just compensation as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Nor did we get the opportunity to face our accuser as provided for in the Constitution. I saw my husband, a disabled, diabetic, WWII veteran, being handcuffed. He was placed in a patrol car with the windows up in July. He was held there in the heat for hours without his morning insulin. He had denied these state thugs immediate access to our home and from his law enforcement background, he knew they had no probable cause. He had fought to defend the Bill of Rights so he knew them and for this he was treated like a criminal.

When I opened my front door a folded paper, a seizure warrant signed by a Justice of the Peace, was shoved into my hand. I was told, "You have 5 minutes to get dressed or we are coming in any way". You can not imagine the fear or the sheer terror! I felt like a Jew living in Nazi Germany. Police were supposed to be protecting me as a law-abiding citizen. Instead they were storming my home and invading it like an enemy troop. No wonder the FBI calls this animal enterprise terrorism. A few minutes later there were people everywhere. They were going through our dressers, cabinets, files, and closets. They ransacked our entire home. One man even looked in our refrigerator. I asked the humane society photographer what he was doing going through a vet supply cabinet in our laundry room. Without warning, he threw me against my dryer and I fell to the floor. I was denied access to my own phone. "Give us the names of other breeders in the area," I was told. "Why should you have to go through this alone?"

Maine (Heidi & John Frasca case): August 21, 2007: Police in swat gear plus 70 to 80 animal rights domestic terrorists swarmed over the Frasca property at 7:30 a.m. Just 15 days prior, the same police had conducted an unconstitutional search of the Frasca kennel and had been served with a ‘Notice of Intent to Sue’ by the Frascas for their unconstitutional/illegal conduct. Now, contrary to every U.S. Constitutional provision and protection, and every Federal and State law, the State organized criminal animal racketeering enterprise was back to serve the Frascas with an unconstitutional ‘Void/Blank warrant’ and steal everything they owned—including their land, home and kennel building. The Frascas and their children (a 26 year old nursing student daughter and their 19 year old son) were forced outside in their underwear and sleep ware having been routed from their beds by the police. The children were not named on the warrant but were forced to pee with their hands in front of them while being watched by police. I met Mike Grovo who watched as the Frasca’s pretty 26 year old daughter peed. Grovo is 48ish with a beer gut and a fat, pig-like face.

The warrant was Void because Fruit of the Poisonous Tree testimony was used to get it. It was Void because of the prior unconstitutional search, and it was Void because there was no Complaint or Affidavits attached to it. The warrant was blank because it stated “Canines”. Vague warrants are Blank warrants and Blank warrants cannot be used yet the State organized criminal racketeering enterprise and their domestic terrorist friends on a ‘Void/Blank’ warrant stating “Canines” took wall telephones, printers, computers, books, a nursing course, cameras, an ox, a horse, parrots, rabbits and lizards - none of which were “Canines”. They took dog food, veterinary medicines, leashes, dishes, cages and anything else they cared to help themselves to – again – not “Canines”. They told the Frascas that they (the State) had put...
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a $100,000 lean on the Frasca home and planned to take the house as their new SPCA and the 28 acres of land as part of their SPCA property.

I am told that those of you reading this are already too familiar with the organized criminal animal racketeering enterprise training and mentality. So there is no point in my going over the same ground in detail. The racketeers are trained by domestic terrorists PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and HSUS (Humane Society of the U.S.). Both groups were named as domestic terrorists by the FBI back in 1993 and remain so today.

The training shows the racketeers how to steal anything they want. They and their animal rights friends stick together and tell the same lies in court and on forged court documents. To hedge their bets, typically the courts are crooked and victims are only brought before judges who are “in” with the racketeers. The victim is just so much inconvenience as the charge of “animal abuse” will always stick. I am speaking about Maine, Texas, Florida, California in particular because I have never heard of an honest State court judge in any of those states when the case is one of animal racketeering. Attorneys are threatened that they must get the victim to plea bargain. If they fail, then they must make sure they lose the client’s case. Note that per the law an attorney’s first duty is to the court, his second is to the public, and his third is to his client. So if the court is dirty, the attorney cannot defend his client or he will be sanctioned or disbarred. Attorneys have reported being offered money. Those who refuse are told they will never win another case in a State court and in the worst cases, attorneys are threatened that their wife or children will be harmed if the victim wins the case. There was a case in Iowa where the attorney persevered and won the case only to be disbarred.

The only change in the methods of the domestic terrorists since Karen’s Texas case in 1993 is that now the racketeers have enough corrupt judges working for them to be able to steal your business, house, and land rather than just your property (animals). In New York the going rate to buy a judge is $50,000. In Maine, the Attorney General, the governor, the district attorneys, the Department of Agriculture and others have been listed as part of the State organized criminal racketeering enterprise on several law suits. In Maine a number of the U.S. District Court judges in the federal court are also allegedly part of the State organized criminal racketeering enterprise and are being sued in the U.S. Court of Claims and on a RICO racketeering law suit to be filed outside of the State of Maine.

I’m sure you are thinking that since the FBI lists PETA and HSUS as domestic terrorists they will come to the victims’ rescue when the victim alerts them to the racketeering. No, they will not. What about the U.S. Department of Justice? No again. And how about the Department of Homeland Security who is supposed to investigate domestic terrorism? A resounding, “N O”.

After the racketeers snatch everything you own, their buddies in the news media try you on television and in the newspapers. This generates literally millions of dollars for the racketeers. So why not call the newspaper or television station and give them your side of things? Well, they simply refuse to report it. They tell you that unless you have filed a law suit against these people they will not print your side of things. You file a law suit. They still refuse to report. What can you do to protect yourself? What can you do to fight the domestic terrorists and get back your property? Next time we will be talking about Constitutional No Trespassing Signs (what they mean to you, where to post them, where to find one), how to write a Notice of Intent to Sue (filed against every person & their employers who conducted unconstitutional searches on your property), a Void Ab Initio (filed in local court), a Recusal (filed in local court), a Motion in Limine (filed in local court), a Judicial Notice (filed in local court), a Bill of Exception/Affidavit of Criminal Complaint (filed in whatever court you are in at the time), a Law Suit (filed in U.S. District Court – federal court within your state), a Writ of Prohibition (filed in U.S. District Court – federal court within your state), a Writ of Replevin (filed in U.S. District Court – federal court within your state), an appeal for an Extraordinary Writ (U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.) and for those of you who wish to file it, how to write a Writ of Certiorari to appeal your case (filed in U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C.). Before you get too excited, please note that I am not an attorney (thank God!). I have no legal training and am not advocating that anyone use anything I write in their own case. I am simply planning to share with all of you the documents I have already filed in various courts. Throw my paperwork in the trash or do whatever you want with it.

It is VERY important to remember that any time you send out any of the above filings to a court or person, you MUST send them via Return Receipt Requested (green card) from your local U.S. Post Office. The U.S. Post Office is then your witness that you sent to these people or court. ALWAYS write on the green card & your slip what type document was sent. If the document is large and heavy because you have lots of attachments, you can send it via Delivery Confirmation which will also get you proof of delivery but at a lower charge. The one time I sent a document to the First Circuit Court via Delivery Confirmation, they told me they never
national database is 2007...(Digital Angel’s partner) is Atlanta-based Merial, one of the world’s leading animal healthcare companies... pet identification is prominent throughout Europe, thanks also to the recently enacted European Union’s Pet Passport Initiative.” There! We didn’t have to count. Two million dogs will be chipped in just the tiny country of Portugal. Remember, that doesn’t include other pets and it doesn’t include Europe. Microchipping was just a precursor to GPS tracking by NAIS. Stop and think. PAWS was a first step. It brought up many “issues”, groundwork having been laid by AKC and HUSU. Microchip, microchip and microchip. Forget about DNA but for goodness sake, microchip. What if your dog is lost? PAWS was to smooth the way, enforce chipping, get AKC into your homes via “inspections” and yes, ultimately to insure that you live up those ridiculous USDA requirements written by non-animal people who think of dogs as rabbits so keeping them in above ground wire cages is just fine…But I digress.

Go back and stare at the words “animal healthcare companies.” If you don’t make that connection, save this, we’re almost done, and later, go to Bad Medicine or Project: Vaccines. And if you aren’t too upset, go to: http://dogpolitics.typepad.com/my_weblog/2006/01/nais_us_govt_ma.html.

Yes, there’s more tying the knot to follow….

Author: Barbara J. Andrews
Letters and comments to the author to be directed to contact@thedogpress.com
Basics of Kennel Ventilation

Layne C. Holmes, DVM The Hunte Corporation

Ventilation is the directed and controlled movement of air. In the kennel environment, appropriate ventilation is necessary to reduce or eliminate odors and reduce the buildup of dangerous bacteria in the air. Furthermore, good ventilation helps maintain a fresh, clean smell in the kennel. Inadequate ventilation, on the other hand, can lead to increased respiratory disease frequency and persistently elevated odor and humidity levels.

The accumulation of dangerous gasses is a primary concern in the kennel environment. Evaporation of water out of feces and urine causes the emission of methane, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide. The puppies themselves produce carbon dioxide and moisture while breathing during every season of the year. The water vapor released by these processes contributes to high humidity problems in the kennel, increasing the concentration of gas and odor levels. Inadequate ventilation can cause respiratory problems in the puppies and breeding stock, as well as kennel workers, and even corrosion of equipment.

Guidelines for gas levels have been established based on the adverse effects noted. Gas accumulation greater than 2% of the air volume can result in rapid breathing and discomfort. When 6% of the room air volume is dangerous gasses, breathing becomes difficult. If the portion of air volume that is dangerous gasses is 10%, loss of consciousness can occur. Levels of gasses above 10% of the room air volume could create serious health risks if animals are subjected to the polluted air for a long period of time. Ventilation works by removing old, dirty air from the room as fresh, clean air is being introduced. The removal of old air helps to eliminate hair, dust, ammonia, carbon dioxide and water vapor that have accumulated.

A ventilation system must be designed for seasonal temperature variations. During the winter, ventilation should provide the minimum amount of air exchange required to remove dangerous gasses and humidity. This should be proportional to room size in relationship to the number and size of animals in the kennel. Spring and autumn are the most critical of all seasons due to the constant day to night temperature variation. Automatic variation of airflow is required for the comfort and health of the animals. Summer ventilation must be designed to move a large volume of air over the animal, or activate an air conditioning system to maintain animal comfort levels.

The Animal Welfare Act & Regulations have been designed to protect animals against temperature and humidity extremes. Dogs should generally not be exposed to temperatures below 50°F. This is especially true of dogs not acclimated to lower temperatures, breeds with short hair coats or animals that cannot tolerate lower temperature without stress or discomfort. Sick, aged, young, and infirm animals have a reduced ability to handle cool temperatures. The AWA has established temperature extremes in its regulations. The temperature must not fall below 45°F or rise above 85°F for 4 or more consecutive hours. The AWA suggests that ventilation should be sufficient to provide health and wellbeing at all times. Adequate ventilation will assist in minimizing odors, drafts, ammonia levels and moisture condensation. Ventilation can be provided by windows, vents, fans, or air conditioning. Auxiliary ventilation is indicated when ambient temperature is at 85°F or above and can be provided by fans, blowers or cooled air conditioning. The relative humidity should be maintained to ensure health and well being, according to the directions of your attending veterinarian. Generally accepted professional and husbandry practices try to maintain humidity levels between 30% and 70%.

The accumulation of dangerous gasses is a primary concern in the kennel environment. Evaporation of water out of feces and urine causes the emission of methane, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

“...
The recommended rate of exchange is 5 to 15 changes per hour, depending on the above mentioned variables. The air exchange rate is based on the volume of room air and the rate of exchange, in the following formula:

\[
\text{Room volume (length • width • height) • rate of exchange (5 to 15) ÷ 60 min/hr}
\]

The result of this formula (cubic feet of air/minute = cfm) provides the cubic feet of air/minute needed from the supply fan in order to provide the necessary air flow for the selected rate of air exchange.

Inadequate ventilation can be a serious problem limiting kennel profitability in terms of increased cost associated with illness of the animals or workers. Signs of poor ventilation can include significant respiratory disease despite an adequate vaccination program, strong urine or fecal odor in the morning and high ammonia levels. Increased humidity due to poor ventilation can be recognized by window condensation and a wet floor requiring more than 10 minutes to dry. When ventilation is well designed and deficiencies addressed, the above problems can be greatly reduced, if not completely eliminated.

A Pet Peeve Dogs Hate About Humans:

"Taking me to the vet for 'the big snip' then acting surprised when I freak out every time we go back!"
Oklahoma and Pet Quality: HB3192

The Pet Quality Assurance and Protection Act continues to be a growing concern for all Oklahoma pet breeders. Many of us attended a meeting on January 12 in Stillwater concerning what we can do to fight this measure. There were representatives from OKPP, OAIA, the retail pet industry, and the show breeders. Dr. Billy Clay and one of the other members of the “Task Force” were also in attendance to hear what we had to say and what suggestions we had to offer. Representative Lee Denney, the author of this bill, stopped by to tell us her feelings on the bill. Both Rep. Denney and Dr. Clay seemed surprised with what we had to contribute. They insist on trying to tell us that the USDA licensed breeder will not be affected by this bill, but those of us who have attended all meetings remember when the task force was asked at the first meeting at the OKVMA how they proposed to fund this act. Dr. Clay told us that “A few would have to pay for the good of all.” In other words, they know where to find the USDA licensed breeders, thanks to another government measure called FOIA (the Freedom of Information Act). Our names, locations, and inspection reports are online for all to see. So where do you think they will start?

Rep. Denney and her people also insist that there will be no Lemon Law in this bill, but there it is on page 11 of the January 6, 2008 draft of the bill. She also told us that we would not see a copy of the final bill before it went to committee because it is currently at the attorney’s office and from there would be submitted for a number and then on to committee. We won’t see it but yet, they want our opinions and suggestions on it? Through the various versions of these drafts they continue to state that each applicant for a Quality Assurance license will have to pass a written exam developed by the “Advisory Committee.” If you fail this exam, you have to wait six months to reapply. Are we not adults who have been raising pets for many years? I don’t know any of us who doesn’t take every opportunity to learn all we can about this field we have chosen, attending every seminar and meeting available to us. Raising animals is something that, at the very heart of it, has to be done through love and a desire to raise well socialized quality pets. To do this, a certain amount of knowledge is necessary. Don’t make us sound like idiots.

The way the bill is currently written, if for some reason, a penalty is levied against you they can place a lien or judgment in favor of the state of Oklahoma upon any of your real or personal property, not just your kennel. We were told by Rep. Denney and the Task Force that the purpose of this law was:

- Because of animals being received by consumers that were not the animal that was advertised i.e. internet sales.
- The number of strays in the shelters is overwhelming.
- The number of unwanted animals born.

Well, there is one really good way to address most of these issues: When someone applies for a health certificate, gets a rabies vaccination, or applies for a dog license, microchip that animal at that time. Make it so that no animal can be sold, traded, or given away without a microchip to identify it and its source. That way the out of state consumer is assured of receiving the animal they purchased. The stray in the shelter can be traced back to where it came from. The unwanted litter can be made the responsibility of the dam’s owner.

We are hoping to come up with some solutions whereby this Task Force can stop the substandard facilities and leave those of us who do the job right alone. Get prepared to call your legislators and let them know how you feel about this bill. A lot of them are ranchers and hunters who will also be impacted by this law. This law has far reaching implications; it will not just affect dog breeders in the end. Go to www.okhouse.gov and track the progress of the bill, determine who your legislators are and get ready to call or write them. We must all stand together on this issue, whether we are pet producers, feed or supply vendors, show breeders, or just animal lovers. This bill will only serve to put more restraints on those of us who do an admirable job and raise well socialized quality pets. It will just make disreputable breeders find new ways to continue on the way they have been. We must educate the public on the things to look for and to ask for when buying a pet. We must stand together on these issues or they will take us down one group at a time.

Tbea J. King, President
Oklahoma Pet Professionals
WHO IS SICKER, VICK OR PETA?

The Michael Vick dog fighting scandal is morphing into a broader NFL dogfighting scandal, as other NFL players also appear to be involved in this very weird pastime. But as animal rights groups get more aggressive in their accusations and demands, the whole scene is getting stranger and stranger and the closer you look, the more you see the deep conflicts in core values that fracture our society.

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) wants the NFL to "add cruelty to animals-in all its forms-to its personal conduct policy." What, for PETA, is "cruelty to animals-in all its forms?" According to this website, we should NOT eat, wear, experiment on, use for entertainment or abuse animals in any way. So PETA's problem is well beyond the sick and cruel murdering of these Creatures of which Vick and others are allegedly guilty. Dog fighting for entertainment, or any other use of animals for entertainment, is itself, for PETA, cruelty.

If it's relevant to look for any kind of logic here, why would it be decent Entertainment to watch hulks of men ram the daylights out of each other as they move a ball across a field, but cruel to watch dogs fight? Why would the NFL sign on to such a thing? More specifically, among PETA's prohibitions is the use of animal skins. The ball, as in football, is an inflated leather object endearingly called the "pigskin".

Thus, through a long and twisted road of logic, beginning with one's own premises about existence, we are led to a conclusion that killing animals is an outrage, but an infant, not. Computer scientists call this "garbage in, garbage out." Our conclusions are only as good as the premises we start with.

And hence the cultural divide in our country. It all starts with where we got our premises. The NFL, is a bit, as they say, between a rock and a hard place. Michael Vick's lifestyle is not one to hold up to young fans, but those who thirst for his destruction offer a picture that is no prettier.

*Star Parker is president and founder of CURE, The Coalition on Urban Renewal & Education and is a contributing editor for the World Net Daily. She has graciously granted The Kennel Spotlight permission to reprint the above article. Ms. Parker is a published author and her work is copyrighted.
Hello!

I thought it was time to write my own article for my fellow canine friends and since this is supposed to be an educational magazine I decided to share with you humans some fun facts about me and my doggy-buddies. First of all, I am a Boston Terrier, descended from the Bulldog and Bull Terrier breeds and an original of the USA! Bet you can’t find too many of your neighbors that can say that! And because of my Bulldog and Terrier line, I can pretend to be ferocious when my people are playing tug-o-war with me and my rope toy. Ok, so maybe the rope toy isn’t always such a good idea. I kind of have this knack for chewing off the ends and getting them bound up in my stomach - just ask my mom, she had to take me to the vet the other day for X-rays since I was throwing up and had a real bad stomach ache!!! And you know what’s the worst part? I don’t have any more rope toys!!! Bummer.... Hopefully she’ll find me something else to chew on...and speaking of playing, (Which I want to do ALL the time), When I do, I make this crazy noise called a “reverse sneeze” due to my elongated palate which sounds like I’m coughing up a hairball or a pig snort (not sure which) but it drives my parents berserk and scares them every time! I guess it’s because I get fluid or junk (off the floor that I hoover up) caught under my palate and it irritates my throat. I guess m0s short nosed breeds do this...Mom yells at me all the time to stop ‘hoovering’ but it is our nature to smell and taste everything, after all, what else do we have to do? We have fewer taste buds than people so we have to sniff up all we can in hopes something good will come up! And since mom won’t let me have chocolate since it’s poisonous to dogs, I have to wait patiently for a doggy biscuit which I only get twice a day and I usually have to give her the ‘stare’ or the ‘weepy puppy eyes” to remind her! And speaking of time, humans don’t realize that we canines have full knowledge of time! Believe it or not, I know when it’s time for someone to come home. I keep waiting patiently, watching the door, looking out the window for my people to show up. I hear some pet parents leave messages on the answering machine for them, wish mine would do that! Don’t they know I get bored being by myself all day? And then when they finally come home, they just want to sit and do nothing! What’s up with that? Don’t they know that statistics show 94% of pet owners say their pet makes them smile more than once a day so that means they should be spending as much time with me as possible! With all the bad ‘stuff’ going on in the world, they need to remember I am always here for them and look forward to spending every minute with them. After all, the expression “three dog night” came from the Eskimos (not the breed) meaning ‘a very cold night’ so cold you have to bed down with ‘three dogs’ to keep warm! So remember to cuddle with your doggy buddies! So long until next time...

Breeder Categories

Backyard Breeder: An individual with three or less breeding dogs running in their backyard, usually whelp in the garage. Backyard breeders do not seek the education; therefore, do not have knowledge when it comes to viruses and parasites. Puppies are usually sold through the local newspapers.

Puppy mill: Illegal, non-licensed, filthy, substandard kennel

Commercial Breeder: Legal, licensed, in compliance breeder with a kennel that passes all industry standards. When deficiencies are noted in their kennel, such problem areas receive attention immediately in order to stay in compliance. Usually transfers puppies/kittens at wholesale for retail as pet animals.

Professional Breeder: Legal, licensed, in compliance breeder with a kennel that passes all industry, federal and state standards set forth. In addition, the professional breeder is well educated in their chosen field of raising pet animals for the public. They attend seminars given by qualified veterinarians and colleges on all subjects that pertain to canine genetics, parasites, viruses, vaccinations, socialization, etc. Professional breeders work closely with a veterinarian on all kennel matters. Expenses are not limited when it comes to animal health, (i.e. Brucellosis testing, Isolation Units, Orthopedic Foundation for Animals testing, DNA, vaccinations, nutrition and more). Professional breeders track any and all genetic faults on their pet puppies, (i.e. hernia’s, cryptorchids, luxating patellas, bites, hair coats and the general conformation of the puppy). Professional breeders transfer their pet animals both wholesale and retail.

Fancy Breeder: Not licensed or inspected by the federal government, no stipulation on the number of animals they have or sell as long as puppies are only sold retail and not wholesale. Kansas does have state regulations for fancy breeders to follow if they have over three litters a year and/or sell over 30 animals. Fancy breeders generally concentrate on the SPORT of owning and showing dogs. Breeding animals for the fancy breeder is usually considered a hobby. Submitted by Sharon Munk
Local Breeder Makes it Big!

There is some exciting news in the state of Arkansas going on right now. Zella Evans of Rogers, AR is very proud to announce that her longhair Champion Chihuahua, “Tijuana Joe”, has been invited to compete in the AKC Westminster Dog Show hosted at Madison Square Garden in New York City on February 11th and 12th. Zella had no idea that her dog could achieve such an honor. “I bought “Joe” as a puppy from a very well known Chihuahua breeder, Ruby Ballard. She was known for having excellent quality chi’s with a lot of potential for the show ring. I got acquainted with her handler who was also showing “Joe’s” 1/2 brother “Sunny” at the time. She expressed an interest in taking him to some shows and it was not long before he had championed out by 16 months! I just couldn’t believe he could become a champion in 3 months time! He has definitely exceeded my expectations! We are so proud of him and very excited about going to New York. We know there will be some tough competition out there but we are confident he will do well.”

Congratulations to Zella and we wish her the best of luck. Be sure to watch for “Tijuana Joe” at the Westminster Dog Show, Feb. 11 & 12.

How To Make Puppy Pie

Take one puppy, roll and play until lightly pampered, then add the following ingredients...

1 cup patience....
1 cup understanding.....
1 pinch correction....
1 cup hard work....
2 cups praise and 1 1/2 cups fun.....

Blend well. Heat with warmth of your heart until Raised or until puppy has doubled in size. Mix with owner until consistency is such that owner and puppy are one. Enjoy!!!
**DOGS ARE KEY TO REVOLUTIONARY CANCER STUDY**

*Canine Cancer Patients Help Advance Research on Promising Vaccine....*

The Abramson Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania is home to a collaboration between canine Veterinarians and Human Oncologists. Approximately 4 million dogs are diagnosed with cancer very similar to the human versions each year. They also respond to treatment in much the same way. In addition to that, they age faster which gives the research scientist an advantage to get results more quickly. “It is like a compressed biological life span that we can study—the cancer progression and also potentially the response to therapy,” states Dr. Karin Sorenmo, an associate professor of oncology at the University of Penn. School of Veterinary Medicine. In one of the studies, doctors took genetic material from a cancerous tumor on a Rhodesian Ridgeback, “Kyra”, implanted it in healthy infection-fighting b-cells outside the body to train them to attack the Lymphoma, and then injected it back into Kyra. So far the vaccine study has worked and today Kyra is back to her energetic and healthy self. She and a number of dogs in the study are now cancer-free. The researchers estimate they are within 2 years of testing the vaccine on humans.

**PIJAC: PET ALERT**

**THE ISSUE.**

Washington House Bill 2511 proposes numerous requirements for pet dealers, including veterinary and warranty certificate prerequisites, restrictions on the sale of certain animals and sets forth purchaser remedies for warranty violations. A “pet dealer” is defined as “any person, business or entity, including the pet breeder, that sells more than twenty animals or three litters, whichever is greater, in a 12-month period.” A “pet breeder” is “any person, business or other that breeds animals for direct or indirect sale to the public.” For purposes of this legislation, “animal” means “a dog, cat or bird of any age.” Under this legislation, a pet dealer must have animals examined by a veterinarian licensed in Washington within 30 days before the sale of an animal. Dealers are also required to present to purchasers, at the time of sale, a written statement containing specific information on the animal for sale and required to keep written records on said animal for three years. For more information on this and other legislation issues, please contact PIJAC’S Michael Maddox by phone at 202-452-1525 or email at mmaddox@pijac.org.

**PA TAIL DOCKING LEGISLATION**

*“Pennsylvania Draft Legislation Puts Clamps on Tail Docking”*

“A proposed revision of the Pennsylvania Animal Cruelty law makes it illegal for anyone to own or possess a dog or puppy with a docked tail, unless a person can prove that the tail was docked by a licensed vet or has filed an affidavit of proof with a county treasurer before this bill goes into effect.” This draft legislation has been presented to the Dog Law Advisory Board and submitted to the state Legislature.

The proposed law also would apply to nonresidents of Pennsylvania who are just passing through the state, or who participate in field trials, dog shows, performance events or hunting here. Several sporting breeds have their tails docked following breed standards designed to prevent severe tail injuries while hunting.

Animal Cruelty statutes carry criminal penalties, and in Pennsylvania, are enforced by Humane Society officers, county animal control and police officers. The proposed bill also grants power to state dog wardens to enforce ALL animal cruelty statutes.

The American Sporting Dog Alliance (ASDA) is actively working to oppose this legislation. Gov. Ed Rendell is supporting this bill along with his tough new kennel legislation proposal designed to push bad kennel owners out of the industry and improve the health care for dogs in the state’s 2600 commercial kennels.

If passed into law, this Tail Docking legislation would have a devastating impact on field trials, performance testing and shows for many breeds and non-residents would simply not be able to comply with these requirements at all. Few residential pet owners would even know about this law until too late when the dog warden shows up at their door with a citation. There is a potential for millions of dollars in unjustified fines to be lost by law-abiding citizens.

This legislation would seriously impact both Pennsylvania and out-of-state trainers and handlers, who would be virtually prohibited from bringing a dog with a docked tail into the state for a field trial or to be trained. Many Pennsylvania residents also would be effectively prohibited from buying a dog or puppy from a breeder of their choice from out of state, even if the breeder was completely in compliance with the laws of his or her own state.

The ASDA needs your support and membership RIGHT NOW to show Pennsylvania lawmakers that sporting dog owners are united in opposition to this arbitrary infringement of our rights and breed traditions. Please visit our website and join our fight to protect your rights! Americansportingdogalliance.org

**Sing-A-Long Now...**

“KNOCK THREE TIMES ON THE CAR HOOD IN THE MORNING.....”

It’s not an urban myth, according to veterinarian Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald of Denver, CO. “When the temperature gets cold overnight, anywhere below 35 or 40 degrees, cats sometimes seek warmth under a car hood.” Dr. Fitzgerald says he treats far too many mangled cats, sadly many of which do not make it out alive for him to treat. So a friendly reminder to everyone when you go to start your car in the morning, “KNOCK THREE TIMES BEFORE YOU TURN THE KEY!”
February 29th-March 1st, 2008
MPBA-Missouri Pet Breeders Assoc. Spring Seminar Springfield, MO
Holiday Inn. Booths are $350. For more information contact Tom Hawley at (417)746-4436 or email: wendyr@fidnet.com

March 8th & 9th, 2008
NEOKPP-Northeast Oklahoma Pet Professionals Pet Expo-Claremore, OK at Cherokee Casino Will Rogers Downs For more information contact Gary Phillips at (918)785-2300

March 14th & 15th, 2008
IAPB-Iowa Pet Breeders Seminar, Osceola, Iowa-Terrible’s Hotel & Convention Center. Booths are $300, each additional is $250-this fee includes your club membership for one person or one business. Booth spaces are going quick! For more information please contact Michele Kruse at (319)835-5862

March 28th-29th, 2008
KPP-Kansas Pet Professionals Spring Seminar, Salina, KS. Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1600 W. Crawford. For more information contact Sharon Monk at (785)855-2251

March 29th, 2008
Northern Indiana Pet Breeders Spring Seminar, Shipshewana, IN. Booths are $100 each. For more information contact Devon Troyer at (574) 825-1556.

April 4th, 2008
PPDBA-Pennsylvania Professional Dog Breeders Association Trade Show and Seminar-Shady Maple Convention Center, 129 Toddy Dr., East Earl, PA 17519. For more information contact Ken Brandt at (717) 367-5223 or email KeyStnKen@aol.com

April 25th & 26th
2008 OKPP- Oklahoma Pet Professionals Seminar, Biltmore Hotel on I-40 & Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK. For more information contact Reda Ratliff (405)396-2386

ATTENTION BREEDERS!
Don’t miss out on the MPBA Spring Seminar!! Friday’s speakers include:

- Dr. Martin Coffman-Puppy Nutrition
- Dr. Rick Kelser-Preventative Medicine for Kennel Management
- Frank Losey, Dale Amick & Karen Strange on Legislation
*MPBA Annual Meeting & Final Nomination of Candidates*
Saturday’s speaker:
- Pat Hastings-Puppy Puzzle-Part 1, 2 & 3

*Close of MPBA Annual Meeting & Announcement of Election Results*

Editors note: MPBA members and ANYONE who is interested in the Professional Pet Industry, YOU NEED TO ATTEND THIS EVENT! Our industry needs your support to manage legislation and protect YOUR RIGHTS as Professional Breeders!

Kansas Pet Professionals
Educational Seminar
Tentative Agenda

Thursday, March 27th
- 7:00-11:00 Appreciation Social
- Upper Respiratory
- Kansas Department of Revenue
- Giardia
- National Alliance of Pet Owners
- Banquet
- Auction

Saturday, March 29th
- Lady Veterinarians
- Kansas Animal Health Department
- Annual Meeting & Legislative Updates
- Brucellosis
- Canine Herpes

We encourage All KPP members and Any Professional Pet Breeder to attend this seminar and expand your knowledge and support YOUR local organizations!

K-9 CONNECTION
BreedingStocks Brought to Your Alt Location Specifications!

WE SPECIALIZE IN KENNEL DISTRIBUTION

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k9connection@mo-net.com
PIJAC ALERT!!!
The Legislation banning ownership of “Pit Bulls” has been introduced in Tennessee. Senate Bill 2738 states that it is an ‘offense for any person to knowingly own a pit bull dog in Tennessee.’ “Own” means “to harbor, keep or exercise control over the dog” and “owner” is defined as “a person who, at the time of the offense, regularly harbors, keeps or exercises control over the dog.

A ‘Pit Bull dog’ is “any pit bull terrier” which includes the Staffordshire bull terrier, American Bulldog, American Staffordshire or any mixed breed of dog that is 50% or more of those breeds mentioned.

Anyone who violates this law will commit a Class A misdemeanor. The court making the sentencing determination for a person convicted of a violation must order the person, if the person convicted is the owner of the dog(s), to surrender custody and forfeit the dog(s). Custody will then be given to a state Humane Society.

This bill has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. If you have further questions concerning this bill please contact PIJAC’s Michael Maddox by phone at 202-452-1525 or by email at mmaddox@pijac.org. We urge you to carefully read this legislation (see complete bill text on PIJAC’s website) and contact committee members with any concerns.

PIJAC: KEEPING YOU IN BUSINESS

TENNESSEE TO BAN DOG OWNERSHIP

PIJAC ALERT!!!
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PIJAC: KEEPING YOU IN BUSINESS

MO-FED ALERT!!!!
About a year ago, PETA requested copies of ALL Inspections and paperwork in the files of all ACFA licensees in Missouri. The Agriculture Dept. cannot deny them the information when they request it under the Missouri Sunshine Law. PETA was charged $2000 for the copies, which they paid. We were told that PETA is now in the process of sending letters to ACFA licensees, citing violations and non-compliant items, and asking what the breeders have done to rectify those items they were written up for.

If you receive a letter requesting this information from PETA, DO NOT RESPOND! Save the letter and please send us a copy or the original letter. Remember: PETA DOES NOT HAVE ANY POLICING POWERS, AND THE INFORMATION THEY ARE REQUESTING IS ABSOLUTELY NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS!!!

We were additionally informed that the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation has also requested copies of the files on ACFA licensees. Again, the Dept. of Agriculture cannot deny them the information under the Mo. Sunshine Law. The Department is in the process of making the copies at this time. What the Alliance will do with the information is unknown, although our guess is they will use it in legislation. Sen. Joan Bray has a bill introduced this year titled the “Healthy Pet Act,” which is a pet lemon law, and we’re sure the Alliance will use the information to further their animal rights agenda. They are the animal rights group that MoFed has fought since the early 1990’s. We will let you know if we receive further information. Be on the alert, check out any unusual barking by your dogs or any unknown vehicles in or around your facility. Report any problems with suspicious persons to your local sheriff if necessary. Thank You, MoFed

AKC NEWS FLASH!!!
Three new breeds are eligible for Foundation Stock Service:

- Eurasier
- Wirehaired Vizsla
- Jindo

New AKC policy: Effective February 1, 2008, a pilot program will go into effect to enable an owner to register a dog with a name of 37-50 spaces, rather than being held to the usual 36 space limit. The fee for names exceeding 36 spaces is $10.00.
The American Kennel Club announced recently that the Bulldog, a popular sports team mascot and one of the most recognizable and iconic purebred dogs, has muscled its way into the 10th spot on the organization’s annual list of the most popular breeds in America according to 2007 AKC registration figures. “This is the first time the Bulldog has made it onto the Top Ten List since 1935,” said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. “This breed appeals to a very wide range of dog lovers so it’s no surprise that it is a favorite amongst AKC’s 157 breeds. The Bulldog is both docile and adaptive, and can thrive in small or large homes. It’s an excellent all around family pet.” The Bulldog was first recognized by the AKC in 1886 just two years after the organization’s founding and was most popular in 1915 when it peaked in 5th place. The breed’s popularity ebbed and flowed throughout the mid 20th century, but since hitting a low of 41st place in 1973, its ranking has steadily increased.

Leash: A strap that attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your owner where you want him or her to go. Make sure that you are waiting patiently with leash in mouth when your owner comes home from work. This immediately makes your owner feel guilty and the walk is lengthened by a good 10 minutes.

Dog Bed: Any soft, clean surface, such as a white bedspread, newly upholstered couch or the dry cleaning that was just picked up.

Drool: What you do when your owners have food and you don’t. To do this properly, sit as close as you can, look sad and let the drool fall to the floor or better yet on their laps.

Sniff: A social custom to use when you greet other dogs or those people that sometimes smell like dogs.

Garbage Can: A container your neighbors put out weekly to test your ingenuity. Stand on your hind legs and push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right, you are rewarded with food wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume, moldy crusts of bread and sometimes even an old Nike.

Thunder: A signal the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling, panting, rolling your eyes wildly and following at their heels.

Love: A feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction, shared by you and your owner. Show it by wagging your tail.
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE FRIENDS OF THE KENNEL SPOTLIGHT!
THIS MONTHS CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS:

Donations to help support this publication and issues & concerns in the Professional Pet Industry were sent by: Donna Zieman, Luana, IA; Becky Simminger, Ludell, KS; Sharon Lavy, Silex, MO; Duane Yoder, Millersburg, OH; Robert Wardrope, Savannah, OK; Sharon Munk, Menlo, KS; Gene Banta & Michele Overbay, Houston, TX; Raymond & Irene Sims, Marshall, MO; Anne Micheaux, Bottineau, ND; Kate Hanewinckel, Germantown, MD.

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Terriers Join Fight Against a Killer Disease In Humans

‘Westies’ are a breed also prone to pulmonary fibrosis, which has no cure...

A fatal condition that looks remarkably like IPF (Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis) is striking the West Highland White Terrier. The disease IPF affects thousands of Americans each year and is typically fatal within three years of diagnosis. Medical scientists are joining together from the veterinarian and human worlds to share information and pool resources. The Westie Foundation of America and the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation held a summit in October on the campus of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana to discuss future plans of getting a core of dogs and their owners together to submit postmortem samples of lung tissue for research.

There is some contention of whether this is the same exact disease that occurs in humans but there is proven history that pulmonary fibrosis does occur in this particular breed quite frequently. Some of the symptoms include excessive panting and shortness of breath. The illness typically develops when the Westie’s are older, (around 8 or 9 years) and inevitably they succumb to the lung fibrosis about a year and a half after their diagnosis.

Due to canines having a shorter life span, this disease and many like it, will affect a dog faster than a human and now more than ever, researchers from both species are joining together to come up with some understanding and valuable clues as to what triggers these fatal illnesses. “There have so far been very few promising leads in discovering the root causes of IPF,” states Dr. Jesse Roman, one of the country’s leading researchers in the disease and a professor of medicine at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

One of the challenges facing medical researchers is getting owners to volunteer their dogs for necropsy. It is sometimes harder for people to allow their ‘family member’ to be used for research even though they know that some good may come of it. The more publicity that comes out on this condition, perhaps the more pet owners will consider coming forward.

Westies could very well be the ‘foe’ in the fight against IPF, considering they do not possess any of the ‘human vices’ such as ‘smoking’ which inhibits research in people. These dogs might turn out to have a very pure form of the disease which would allow scientists to investigate the disease itself and not worry about other factors.

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