



Dogs are Barking About...

PA Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Spring 2017

The Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team's Future Is In Jeopardy!

Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club
Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia
Allentown Dog Training Club, Inc.
Anthracite Brittany Club
Back Mountain Kennel Club
Bald Eagle Kennel Club
Berks County Dog Training Club
Berks County Kennel Club
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Watchung
Borzoi Club of the Delaware Valley
Bucks County Kennel Club Inc.
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia Inc.
Bulldog Club Of Philadelphia
Butler Dog Training Association
Carlisle Dog Club
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Delaware Valley
Chambersburg Area Kennel Club
Colonial Rottweiler Club
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County
Delaware County Kennel Club Inc.
Delaware Valley Bullmastiff Club
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club
Delaware Valley Havanese Club
Delaware Valley Toy Dog Fanciers
Delaware Valley Yorkshire Terrier Club
Devon Dog Show Association
Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc.
Dog Training Club Of Chester County
Dog Training Club Of York
Erie Kennel Club
Great Dane Club Of Lehigh Valley LLC
Great Dane Club Of Pennsylvania Inc
Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Harrisburg Kennel Club
Hatboro Dog Club
Hilltown Dog Training Club
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.
Interstate Shetland Sheepdog Club
Irish Wolfhound Association Of Delaware Valley
Kan-Do K9 Sports Association
Keeshond Club of the Delaware Valley
Kennel Club Of Philadelphia
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.

The Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team is at a crossroads and the future of emergency planning for companion and production animals is in jeopardy. One of the founding principles of PASART has been a balance on its Board between animal production stakeholders and animal protection stakeholders. It is this principle that we see being threatened by an effort to ostensibly assure funding for PASART into the future.

The reason we are at this crossroads is the retirement of the first and only Executive Director of PASART, Joel Hersh. Mr. Hersh informed the Board about a year ago that he wanted to retire at the end of June 2016. PFDC intensified its lobbying efforts in the Legislature to secure funding for a new Executive Director. With the efforts of House Emergency Preparedness and Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Representative Stephen Barrar, PASART received \$130,000 in a delayed 2015-2016 budget, and the 2016-2017 budget. Unfortunately, \$130,000 was only enough to cover some of PASART's insurance and administrative costs, some training, some new equipment and a part-time Executive Director. Finding a high caliber Executive Director when only offering part-time hours and pay is proving very difficult.

While the process of obtaining funding through the Legislature and recruiting candidates for Executive Director was on going, Mr. Hersh and Board Chair Sarah Speed were talking with outside organizations in an attempt to form a partnership that would provide leadership and/or funding for PASART going forward. PFDC has not supported this effort, but the majority of the Board voted to authorize these talks. Mr. Hersh and Ms Speed found a regional Humane Society that was interested in operating PASART as a subsidiary. Initially we envisioned an arrangement that would allow PASART to test the relationship and perhaps backtrack if things did not work out as planned. The proposal now on the table being discussed and debated by the PASART Board is for a complete sale of all equipment titled to PASART to this Humane Society for a nominal fee, and for the PASART Board to cease making policy for the organization. The Humane Society's Board would take over policy making and would create an advisory Board from members of the old PASART Board of their choice. After the deal was closed, there would be no opportunity to backtrack and the Humane Society would have control of all equipment with no legal obligation to use it as intended when PASART was founded. Our legal counsel does not believe this transfer of publicly funded equipment is legal, and we have learned other stakeholders' legal counsel also thinks it does not fit with current law.

Giving full control of PASART to any animal protection organization such as a Humane Society destroys the balance between animal production and animal protection. Given this, and the loss of control of millions of

Lancaster Kennel Club
 Lebanon County Kennel Club
 Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club
 Lehigh Valley Kennel Club
 Lenape Golden Retriever Club
 Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers
 Lower Bucks Dog Training Club
 Mid Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club
 Middle Atlantic St. Bernard Club
 Montgomery County Kennel Club
 Mt Nittany Dog Training Club
 Nita-Nee Kennel Club
 Obedience Training Class Of Harrisburg
 Old York Road Dog Training Club
 Penn Ridge Kennel Club
 Penn Treaty Kennel Club
 Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club
 Philadelphia Dog Training Club
 Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley Inc.
 Quaker City Doberman Pinscher Club
 Saucon Valley Boxer Club
 Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club
 SE Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club
 Siberian Husky Club of the Delaware Valley
 Skycastle French Hounds
 South Hills Kennel Club
 Suburban Dog Training Club of Eastern Montgomery County
 Tri State Dog Obedience Club Inc. Waterland Retriever Club
 William Penn Poodle Club
 William Penn West Highland White Terrier Club
 Williamsport Dog Training Club
 York County Dog Training Club

dollars worth of equipment, the PA Federation of Dog Clubs has adamantly opposed this sale and has taken the lead on the push for alternatives. We have put together a plan to lobby key Legislators for increased funding but are in a holding pattern waiting to see how the PASART Board acts on this sale. Now we are working with some other stakeholders to find stop-gap alternatives that will allow Joel Hersh to retire, keep PASART independent and improve PASART's chances of finding a high caliber Executive Director for the future. Stay tuned.

Legislative Report on the Beginning of the 2017-2018 Session Proposals

- **HB 13** - Representative Bizzaro has reintroduced Libre's Law. It still includes the tethering language to which we objected and some problematic definitions that could treat accidents as torture. We oppose and will work to inform Legislators of our specific issues with the Bill. Senator Richard Alloway II is also introducing SB 298 which he says is his version of Libre's Law. We do not know yet how similar it is to HB13, but it should be watched nonetheless.
- **HB 2410** - Representative Grenier introduced this Bill to increase qualifications for individuals appointed as Humane Police Officers. We support this in concept and are waiting to see specific language.

Retrospective of 2015-2016 Session Proposals

- **HB 869** – Also known as Libre's Law was stopped in the last days of the 2015-2016 session when the House and Senate failed to concur on changes. The Senate added language restricting tethering at the request of Senator Alloway and returned the bill to the House. PFDC Legislative Chair Julian Prager wrote to all House members opposing the addition. Most were removed and the bill was sent back to the Senate. We are asked for further amendments

to permit training dogs that are acclimatized to extremes of weather, for example, search and rescue dogs. We are also seeking to clarify the language for exemptions since they do not use terms correctly when referring to our activities. The bill raised the penalty for cruelty to a felony, but requires that the abuse be knowing or reckless. While this is a broader standard than presently exists, it excludes abuse rising from accidents, for example, when a dog dies in a car that had its air-conditioning malfunction. Therefore, we could live with, if not support, that change. We preferred the language in HB15 (see below). It has been reintroduced in the 2017-2018 session as HB13 above.

- **HB 15** (Goodman) – This proposal increased the penalties for animal cruelty (e.g. first offense increased to a third degree misdemeanor and second or subsequent offense would be a second degree misdemeanor – currently a third degree misdemeanor), as well as increased the penalties for illegal ear and tail cropping, debarking, surgical births, etc., from a summary offense to a third degree misdemeanor. This Bill never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 9, 2015. We did not oppose it and we do not know if it will be reintroduced in the 2017-2018 session.

- **HB 19** (Schlossberg) – This proposal sought to designate the "shelter pet" as the official pet of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It never made it out of the House State Government Committee where it was referred on Jan. 21, 2015. This would have removed the Great Dane as the official dog. We opposed and hope it will not be reintroduced in the 2017-2018 session.

- **HB 113** (D. Costa) – The Bill sought to increase the grading of various animal cruelty offenses. It never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee where it was referred upon its introduction on Jan. 21, 2015. We supported it but do not know if it will be reintroduced.

• **HB 164** (Stephens) – The Bill sought to provide that a person commits a misdemeanor of the third degree if they knowingly own or possess animal fighting paraphernalia. It was signed into law by the Governor on July 10, 2015, as Act 24 of 2015.) Please let us know if you hear of prosecutions under this new law.

• **HB 281** (Sainato) –The Bill sought to increase penalties for individuals convicted of animal cruelty. The bill also provided that a person commits aggravated cruelty to animals when, with no justifiable purpose, he intentionally kills or causes serious physical injury to a companion animal with aggravated cruelty. Aggravated cruelty is defined under the bill as “conduct which is intended to cause extreme physical pain or is done or carried out in an especially depraved or sadistic manner.” It never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 2, 2015. We supported it and hope it will be reintroduced in the 2017-2018 session.

• **HB 351** (Readshaw) – It provided for an animal abuse registry. It never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 9, 2015. We did not support it and will work to oppose its reintroduction in the 2017-2018 session.

• **HB 481** (D. Parker) – Anti-tethering Bill. It never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 17, 2015, but it was amended into HB 869 which died as the end of the 2015-2016 session. We opposed it and will fight to stop its reintroduction in 2017-2018.

• **HB 492** (Schreiber) – It required pet shops to post certain information (e.g., breed, age, and date of birth of the dog; state in which the breeder of the dog is located, etc.) conspicuously on the cage of a dog offered for sale. The bill also provided that a dog offered for sale on behalf of a nonprofit kennel by a pet shop-kennel shall posted this information conspicuously on its cage to the extent the information is known. It never made it out of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 17, 2015. We asked for an amendment as follows: (2) A dog offered for sale or adoption by or on behalf of a licensed non-profit kennel at [by] a pet shop-kennel shall have the information in paragraph (1) posted conspicuously on its cage to the extent the information is known. We do not know if it will be reintroduced in 2017-2018 or if our suggestion will be included.

• **HB 502** (Watson) - It provided that all Dog Law fines and penalties collected shall remain in the Dog Law Restricted Account. Identical to SB 573 (McIlhinney). It never made it out of their respective Judiciary Committees, where it was referred upon introduction. We supported it and will work for its reintroduction.

• **HB 569** (Conklin) – It amended the County Code to allow county commissioners to employ a county humane officer to enforce dog control, as defined in the Dog Law and animal cruelty laws. It never made it out of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on June 11, 2015. We supported it if the training was increased. The proposal only required a minimum of 60 hours of training (same as a humane police officer) of which 36 hours must be in the law and 24 hours in animal husbandry and care. This is too little training to assure competence in our view. We do not know if it will be reintroduced.

• **HB 1174** (Flynn) - It replaced the mental requirements of “willfully and maliciously” with “intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly” when an individual is accused of engaging in cruelty to domestic animals. It never made it out of the House Judiciary Committee where it was referred upon its introduction on May 11, 2015. We did not oppose but do not know if it will be reintroduced in the 2017-2018 session.

• **HB 1465** (Masser) - It required boarding kennel operators to sign and follow written instructions provided by dog owners. It never made it out of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on July 21, 2015. We supported if the boarding kennel operator is released from civil and criminal liability when following the directions of the owner. We do not know if it will be reintroduced.

• **HB 1466** (Murt) – It was identical to SB 640, which made it unlawful to deny, limit, discourage, etc. a disabled individual with a therapy dog, an owner or handler of a therapy dog

or a person licensed to train therapy dogs from riding on public transportation or to charge a fee for the transportation of such a dog. Specifically, the bill requires PDA to develop criteria and standards for therapy dog training organization to meet regarding the certification/registration of therapy dogs and their handlers. SB640 was unanimously voted out of the Senate State Government Committee on June 2, 2015, and died in the Senate at the end of the 2015-2016 session. HB1466 never made it out of the House State Government Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on July 21, 2015. We supported and will work for its reintroduction in the 2017-2018 session.

- **HB 1516** (Farry) – It was very similar to SB 977, which made it a summary offense to confine a dog or cat in an unattended motor vehicle in extreme heat that could endanger the health and well-being of the animal. The bill provides that a first responder may break into the motor vehicle after a reasonable effort to search for the owner or operator of the unattended vehicle. The first responder and the department/agency employing the officer would not be held liable for any damage to property resulting from such actions. If the dog or cat is removed from the vehicle, the person removing the dog or cat must leave a note in a conspicuous location with contact information as to where the animal can be located, as well as take the dog or cat to a veterinary hospital or animal care clinic for treatment/health screening. If the motor vehicle owner/operator is unable to be located, the animal must be admitted to a shelter or humane society. It was passed by the House Judiciary Committee on September 20, 2016 and the Appropriations Committee on October 18, 2016. It unanimously passed the House on October 18, 2016 but died in the Senate at the end of the 2015-2016 session. We did not support the proposal as written. If a dog is locked in a car with the air conditioner running, someone could take the dog if the external temperature (not internal) could endanger the dog, take it for veterinary treatment and take it on to a shelter. We will make our concerns known to sponsors if they are considering reintroduction.

- **HB 1539** (D. Costa) - It required that a law enforcement agency must equip each vehicle issued in a K-9 law enforcement program with a heat alert system that is activated when the temperature in the vehicle's interior becomes dangerous to a police dog in the vehicle. It never made it out of the House Transportation Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Sept. 11, 2015. We supported but questioned who will pay for this.

- **HB 1610** (Gibbons) – It provided for a canine health special registration plate. It never made it out of the House Transportation Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Oct. 8, 2015. We should support this but question where the additional \$20 goes, and what are the proceeds spent on from within the Dog Law Restricted Account.

- **SB 22** (Greenleaf) – It made various changes to the Puppy Lemon Law, such as requiring that the releasing agency shall provide a new owner of a dog with a health record for the dog at the time of adoption, extends the timeframe that a hereditary or congenital condition must be certified by a veterinarian from within 30 days to 90 days of the purchase, among other things. The bill also provided that a dog shall not be unfit for purchase because of a health problem, which, in addition to a health certificate or guarantee of good health required under the law, is separately disclosed by the seller in writing at the time of sale. Such disclosure shall be signed by both the seller and the purchaser at the time of the sale and shall be documented in the health certificate or guarantee of good health. Status: unanimously voted out of the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee on April 15, 2015, and was sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee where it died at the end of the 2015-2016 session. We supported and will work for its reintroduction in the 2017-2018 session.

- **SB 294** (Eichelberger) – Under current law, a person commits a misdemeanor of the first degree if he willfully and maliciously kills, maims, mutilates, tortures or disfigures any dog or cat. This Bill added "equine animal" to scope of the animal cruelty statute. The bill also defines "torture" to include breaking, severing or severely impairing limbs; inflicting severe and prolonged pain from burning, crushing or wounding; or causing or allowing, through prolonged deprivation of food or sustenance, the loss of more than one-third of the animal's normal body mass without veterinary care." It unanimously passed the Senate on June 3, 2015, and died in the House

Judiciary Committee at the end of the 2015-2016 session. We supported it.

- **SB 339** (Boscola) - It increased the penalty for animal cruelty from a summary to a third degree misdemeanor and the penalty for a second or subsequent offense from a third degree misdemeanor to a second degree misdemeanor. It never made it out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Jan. 28, 2015. We supported it.

- **SB 593** (Dinniman) – amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to expand (e.g., up to \$12,000 in noneconomic damages for the loss of reasonably expected society, companionship, love, and affection of the pet, etc.) the civil action a person may take against someone who intentionally or negligently kills their dog or cat, with some exceptions. The bill also specifies that if an intentional or negligent act results in the death or permanent injury of a guide dog, the value of the guide dog shall include, but not be limited to, the cost of the guide dog as well as the cost of any specialized training the dog received. It never made it out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on March 6, 2015. We opposed.

- **SB 594** (Dinniman) - It made it a first degree misdemeanor if a person harms or kills an animal owned by an individual who has a protection from abuse order against the offender. The bill provided that any individual convicted of this crime shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$15,000 and/or imprisonment for up to two years. It unanimously passed by the Senate on June 3, 2015 and passed by the House Judiciary Committee on June 7, 2016. It died in the full House at the end of the 2015-2016 session. We supported.

- **SB 595** (Dinniman) - It provided tax credits to eligible, approved pet foster homes. A \$100 PA income tax credit for every 90 days of pet foster care provided to the pet of a Pennsylvanian service member on active duty. The maximum tax credit a provider can receive is \$400 a year, and the program's total tax credits are capped at \$100,000 annually. It never made it out of the Senate Finance Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on March 6, 2015. We supported.

- **SB 693** (Teplitz) – It provided for a tax credit for the cost of adopting a dog or cat from a qualifying pound, shelter, society, or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals, etc. The amount of the tax credit would be \$300 per tax year, and the tax credits would be available until December 31, 2017. It never made it out of the Senate Finance Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on April 7, 2015. We did not support.

- **SB 698** (Leach) – It prohibited exhibitors from employing or using any exotic animal or exotic wildlife in an animal act, ride, performance, or exhibition as part of a traveling show or exhibition if, during the 15-day period preceding the employment or use, the animal was living or traveling in a mobile housing facility. The bill provides exemptions for zoos, educational outreach programs, research activities, etc. It never made it out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on April 23, 2015. We opposed.

Interstate Transfer of Animals Between Shelters

A bill to stop the importing of unvetted puppies from out of state and unrecorded transfer of puppies for "adoption" (read "sale") between some so-called humane and rescue organizations in Pennsylvania is *still* desperately needed. Any knowledge of such organizations doing this should be immediately reported to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement as a matter of public safety. These "shelters" apply for 501(c)3 status as non-profits. They are, in effect, functioning for profit as "puppy mills." Doing nothing about this directly related disgraceful problem that certainly should affect the public's perception of their honest functions and practices unfortunately casts Humane PA's and the Federated Humane Societies of PA's motives in promoting any legislation in a very self-serving light, in our way of thinking, as they avoid monitoring or policing these rogue rescues. We recommend that you be very careful about supporting their legislative agendas. The issue about dogs and cats coming through any rescues unvetted and undocumented should not be "a thorny one" for any intelligent person, regardless of his or her affiliation, as it causes exposure of the general public's pets and people to disease from other areas, and purchase of heartbreakingly unhealthy animals as pets. And healthy animals in such shelters are obviously put at risk as well. The current lemon law can only help after the fact. The Federated Humane Societies of PA

should be very strong voices to help correct this problem. It should be a much needed amendment to the PA dog laws. We of the PFDC have been trying to get these loopholes stopped for some time. Please notify USDA/APHIS at ace@aphis.usda.gov or phone 301-851-3751 to complain about the transfer of dogs among shelters, especially without adequate health checks.

In addition to vetting the rescue organization or shelter, state officials recommend these tips for people looking to adopt: **1. Find out what state and county the animal came from, 2. Ask for the pet's CVI, 3. Ask what kind of treatments the pet received after coming to the rescue facility.** Do your research before adoptions, especially because most organizations will make you sign a contract releasing them of any financial responsibility. Any reputable organization will have treated the animal for at least two weeks before putting it up for adoption.

Upcoming Member Events

- **Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley:** On February 4, 5 and 6, 2017, we have a booth at the Canine Learning Experience, sponsored by LVKC. There will be demonstrations, health clinics, and seminars on all things canine! There will be an all breed show and obedience trial. Contact: Virginia Haddad, Secretary, at ginnyhpcvlv@verizon.net

- **Suburban Dog Training Club** is having Show-N-Go Obedience Matches on Saturday January 14th, Saturday February 11th and Saturday March 4th, 2017. Info at SuburbanDogTraining.com.

- At the **Dog Training Club of Chester County** on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at 2pm, Patricia McConnell will be speaking as part of her book tour for the release of her memoir, *The Education of Will*. She will be talking about Canine Emotions, using both cutting edge science and paws-on experience to compare the inner lives of dogs with our own, and how this knowledge can improve our relationship with our four-footed family members. Go to <http://www.dtccc.org/events.htm> for details about registration when they are available.

- **Great Dane Club of Delaware Valley** is having our annual Canine Health Issue seminar on April 8, 2017, at Caitlyn and Cody's Restaurant in Quakertown, PA. The seminar price of \$40 includes continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, Please contact Elaine Miller at 215-249-3148 or e-mail: nordane@msn.com

- **Philadelphia Dog Training Club** is excited to announce that our May 13, 2017 Trial will be held at the K9Jym in Colmar PA again this year. *New for this year:* Opening date is March 10, 2017. Entries are limited to 8 hours of judging per judge. Preferred Novice class, Veterans class. Practice ring. AM coffee and donuts plus limited lunch availability; donation requested. The Premium List can be downloaded from the Club website at www.philadelphiadogtraining.org. Chris Allen, PDTC Trial Secretary E-mail: allen.feild@verizon.net

The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Requires that Everyone has CURRENT DOG LICENSES for their Pets

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs. The cost of a dog license is cheaper than the fine for not having one. An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities. Dog licenses can be purchased from your county treasurer or issuing agent. Please visit www.licenseyourdogPA.com for a listing of all treasurers.

License fees help millions of dogs in the state by funding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement which is charged with ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial breeding kennels. The Bureau also regulates activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

If your dog gets lost, a current license is the fastest way to get him/her back.

<http://PAFederationOfDogClubs.org> President@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org 717-877-4336

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