



# Dogs are Barking About...

PA Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Fall 2016

## PA Federation of Dog Clubs Annual Meeting September 7, 2016

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.



Kim Miller

We began the evening by presenting the Outstanding Individual award to Kim Miller. When Kim was 4 she was non verbal. She was one of the first people to test a digital speaking device at the Easter Seal Program. Kim was diagnosed with autism and received early intervention and she also learned sign language. Kim is now 30 years old and has a business named Walking With Kim. Kim is the owner and operator of her business and has help from her mom Jill and an aide. She communicates with her clients with a computerized speaking device. Kim has a special connection with the dogs and the dogs love her. Every one of Kim's dogs know she is special. Kim walks Great

Danes, German Shepherds and Weimaraners to name a few. The dogs can't wait for Kim to take them for their walks. Kim has other autistic adults working with her. What a gal to overcome these obstacles that she faced and to start her own business with the dogs who love her!

We then presented the Outstanding Club of the Year award to the Berks County Kennel Club. They do an annual dog education fair in Reading with booths manned by rescues, dog trainers, equipment sales and education information. They participate in a monthly TV and radio show about canines and go to nursing homes, senior canterers and schools with their dogs. Nancy Reiter accepted the Outstanding Club award for the Berks County KC. Our Honorable Mention was the Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers who collected donations and used them to provide pet oxygen masks to area fire companies.



Rob Sexton, Sportsmen's Alliance

Our featured speaker was Rob Sexton from the Sportsmen's Alliance. He spoke about the cooperation between sportsmen and dog fanciers going back to the 2008 fight of the PA Dog Law and kennel regulations under former Governor Rendell. He went on to talk about current concerns we share and how we can cooperat

in the future to guard against erosion of our shared values.

Then our own Legislative Chairman Julian Prager took the floor to talk about his experience working at USDA APHIS. He talked about efforts to bring the regulations more into line with the statutes, and what may be coming our way in the before the end of the year on the so-called retail

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 no delegate listed  
 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

pet store rules.

We then announced our new Board members, Edith Rysdyk and Terry Brumbaugh. Edith, from the Allentown Dog Training Club, was in attendance and introduced herself. Terry, from the Schuylkill German Short-haired Pointer Club, was unable to attend, so we told everyone some about him.

Last we drew a raffle for a new PFDC logo polo shirt.



Pres. Cox and Rep. Stephen Barrar

## Representative Stephen Barrar receives Pennsylvania Legislator of the Year Award

Representative Stephen Barrar, Chair of the House Veteran Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, received the Pennsylvania Legislator of the Year Award from the American Kennel Club and PA Federation of Dog Clubs for his efforts in preserving funding for the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team (PASART). These awards were presented on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the Wyndham Garden Inn, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA. The Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America donated \$300 to PASART at the same ceremony that occurred during their National Specialty, accepted by PASART Executive Director Joel Hersh. The PASART emergency sheltering trailer was also on display prior to the ceremony.



Joel Hersh of PASART

Last year, during the protracted budget battles in Harrisburg, one of the casualties was PASART, a leading emergency animal protection program in the United States. Since 2005, Federal Emergency Management officials have recognized PASART as a model for volunteer stakeholder-run emergency disaster response for pet and production animals in other states. In the last 2 years, however, PASART had insufficient funding for all its activities and the salary of its only paid member, the Executive Director, despite private donations from the PA Federation of Dog Clubs, its member organizations, and foundations run by commercial interests and private organizations.

The PFDC turned to the PA Legislature calling on them to keep this vital program going so as not to waste millions of dollars invested in equipment and training of volunteers. PFDC made these points to Representative Barrar, who responded with a request to sit down with representatives of PFDC and PASART to discuss the value of the program and what was needed to keep it going. After listening carefully to us, Chairman Barrar extended an invitation to address a joint House and Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee hearing. Chairman Barrar then made PASART's value and needs known to negotiators on the House Appropriations Committee. In the end, funding was included in the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's budget, saving PASART for the fiscal year.

## Upcoming Member Events

- Kennel Club of Philadelphia National Dog Show Gala Friday November 18, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Valley Forge Casino, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA, Benefitting Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House, Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society and Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation. Special Performance by John O'Hurley from his one-man show, "A Man with Standards". [www.crowdrise.com/TheNational-](http://www.crowdrise.com/TheNational-)

DogShowGala.

Kennel Club of Philadelphia's National Dog Shows Saturday & Sunday, November 19-20, All Day, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA. Features dogs from some 200 breeds plus agility dogs, search and rescue dogs, diving dogs in daytime competition and demonstrations as part of the century-old Philadelphia tradition. Saturday's show is the National Dog Show presented by Purina® aired nationally on Thanksgiving Day from noon – 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$7 for children 4-12 years. Children three and under are admitted free. One of only four shows in the United States that is "benched," meaning that all dogs (estimated 2,000) from among some 200 breeds are located all day long in specific areas to interact with the public. [www.nationaldogshow.com](http://www.nationaldogshow.com)

- Berks County Kennel Club 5-week Handling Class Mondays, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28. Dec. 5, 2016. Contact Nancy Reiter, Berks County Kennel Club (610-779-8006) or email ([karefreedals@yahoo.com](mailto:karefreedals@yahoo.com)).

- Tri-State Dog Obedience Club ( Shohola Pa)Upcoming events are Obedience Matches November 26 and Dec 10, 2016 and Jan 1, 2017. Entries and information are available on [Dogmatchshow.com](http://Dogmatchshow.com).

- Delaware Valley English Cocker Spaniel Club BAER Testing, Sunday, November 27, 116 Hazen Ave., East Bangor, PA18013. Dr. Ellis Loew from Cornell University will conduct BAER testing by pre-paid appointment. This test meets the standards for inclusion in the OFA database for BAER testing. FMI or to reserve an appointment, please contact: Chereen Nawrocki at either 610-216-7672 or [nawrocki5@rcn.com](mailto:nawrocki5@rcn.com). Reservations must be received by Nov 21st, 2016 to ensure the minimum number requirement is met for Dr. Loew.

- Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club's first indoor show and obedience trial will be on Friday, December 9, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks, PA. Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club's all-breed conformation and obedience and rally trials will be held on June 3, 2017 in Wrightstown. PA. Contact: Elizabeth Hayes at [Elizhayes@msn.com](mailto:Elizhayes@msn.com)

- Borzoi Club Delaware Valley, Supported Entry @ Valley Forge KC Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11, 2016.

- Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, All Breed Conformation Show, Obedience and Rally Trial, Dec 17, 2016. This event is part of the Star of Bethlehem Cluster, Dec 16-18, 2016.

- Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley has two concurrent specialties in conjunction with Lehigh Valley Kennel Club and Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club. The dates are Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday Dec. 18, 2016. 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 [ginnyhpcv@verizon.net](mailto:ginnyhpcv@verizon.net)

- KanDo K9 Sports Assn. has Show N Go "Hair of the Dog" January 1, 2017 Nazareth, PA.

- 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](http://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.

## 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.** As obvious as the advice sounds, experts say you need to 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.

## **Current Legislation of Concern Being Considered in the Pennsylvania House and Senate**

There is one legislative day for the Senate left this year - November 24 in the Senate. Any bills not addressed will have to be reintroduced for the next session.

- **HB869** – concerning an amendment to part of Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses involving animal cruelty). **Oppose as written.** 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 asking for further amendments to permit training dogs that are acclimatized to extremes 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. Information is being sent to all Senators. Please contact your Senator and ask them to support the PFDC changes.

The bill raises 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 can live with, if not support, this change. We prefer the language in HB15 (see below).

- **HB 15** (Goodman) – amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to increase 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 increases the penalties for illegal ear and tail cropping, debarking, surgical births, etc., from a summary offense to a third degree misdemeanor. Status: awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 9, 2015. **We are not opposing.**

- **HB 19** (Schlossberg) – an act designating the "shelter pet" as the official pet of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Referred to the House, Jan. 21, 2015. This has the effect of removing the Great Dane as the official dog. **We oppose.**

- **HB 113** (D. Costa) – amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to increase the grading of various animal cruelty offenses. Status: awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Jan. 21, 2015. **We support.**

- **HB 164** (Stephens) – amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to provide that a person commits a misdemeanor of the third degree if they knowingly own or possess animal fighting paraphernalia. Status: 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) – amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to increase penalties for individuals convicted of animal cruelty. The bill also provides 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.” Status: awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 2, 2015. **We support.**

- **HB 351** (Readshaw) – provides for an animal abuse registry. Status: awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 9, 2015. **We do not support.**

- **HB 481** (D. Parker) – amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to prohibit, unless certain exceptions are met, the tethering of a dog outside and unattended to any stationary object by use of a restraint between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. or fails to satisfy certain requirements (e.g., the tether must be attached to the dog by means of a well-fitted collar or body harness that will not cause trauma or injury to the dog, etc.) and prescribes associate penalties. Status: awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 17, 2015. **We oppose.**

- **HB 492** (Schreiber) – amends the Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982) to require 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 provides 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. Status: awaits consideration by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Feb. 17, 2015. **We would like to see 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.**

- **HB 502** (Watson) - amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to provide that all Dog Law fines and penalties collected shall remain in the Dog Law Restricted Account. Identical to SB 573 (McIlhinney). Status: each await consideration by their Judiciary Committees, where it was referred upon introduction. **We support.**

- **HB 569** (Conklin) – amends 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 in Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses). Status: awaits consideration by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on June 11, 2015. **We support if the training is increased. The proposal only requires 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.**

- **HB 1174** (Flynn) - amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) by replacing the mental requirements of “willfully and maliciously” with “intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly” when an individual is accused of engaging in cruelty to domestic animals. Status: awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on May 11, 2015. **We do not oppose.**

- **HB 1465** (Masser) - amends Dog Law (Act 225 of 1982) to require boarding kennel operators to sign and follow written instructions provided by dog owners. Status: awaits consideration by the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on July 21, 2015. **We support if the boarding kennel operator is released from civil and criminal liability when following the directions of the owner.**

- **HB 1466** (Murt) – identical to SB 640, which amends the Human Relations Act (Act 222 of 1955) to make 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. Status: unanimously voted out of the Senate State Government Committee on June 2, 2015, and awaits further consideration by the full Senate. Status: awaits consideration by the

House State Government Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on July 21, 2015. In addition, SB 640, the Senate companion bill, was unanimously voted out of the Senate State Government Committee on June 2, 2015, and awaits further consideration by the full Senate. **We support.**

- **HB 1516** (Farry) – very similar to SB 977, which amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to make 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. Status: awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Sept. 29, 2015. **We do 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.**

- **HB 1539** (D. Costa) - amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to require 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. Status: awaits consideration by the House Transportation Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Sept. 11, 2015. **We support but question who will pay for this.**

- **HB 1610** (Gibbons) – amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to provide for a canine health special registration plate. Status: awaits consideration by 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) – amends Section 9.3 of Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law to make 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 provides 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 awaits further consideration by the full Senate. **We support.**

- **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 amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) by adding "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." Status: unanimously passed the Senate on June 3, 2015, and awaits further consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. **We support.**

- **SB 339** (Boscola) - amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to increase 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. Status: awaits further consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Jan. 28, 2015. **We support.**

- **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. Status: awaits consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on March 6, 2015. **We oppose.**

- **SB 594** (Dinniman) - amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to make 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 provides that any individual convicted of this crime shall be subject to a fine of note less than \$2,000 and not more than \$15,000 and/or imprisonment for up to two years. Status: unanimously passed by the Senate and awaits consideration by the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred on June 5, 2015. **We support.**

- **SB 595** (Dinniman) - amends the Tax Reform Code to provide 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. Status: awaits consideration by the Senate Finance Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on March 6, 2015. **We support.**

- **SB 640** (Dinniman) - amends the Human Relations Act (Act 222 of 1955) to make 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. Status: unanimously voted out of the Senate State Government Committee on June 2, 2015, and awaits further consideration by the full Senate. The companion bill in the House of Representatives is HB 1466, which awaits consideration by the House State Government Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on July 21, 2015. **We support.**

- **SB 693** (Teplitz) – amends the Tax Reform Code to provide 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. Status: awaits consideration by the Senate Finance Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on April 7, 2015. **We do not support.**

- **SB 698** (Leach) – amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to prohibit 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. Status: awaits consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on April 23, 2015. **We oppose.**

- **SB 715** (Browne) - amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to prohibit the use of live pigeons for targets at trap shoots or block shoots. Status: awaits consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on April 16, 2015. **We do not support.**

- **SB 977** (Teplitz) - amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to make 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. Once the dog or cat is removed from the vehicle, the first responder 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. Status: awaits consideration by the Senate Judiciary Committee, where it was referred upon its introduction on Sept. 15, 2015. **We do 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.**

## **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.

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.

Dog licenses can be purchased from your county treasurer or issuing agent. Please visit **www.licenseyourdogPA.com** for a listing of all treasurers.

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

**LOVE YOUR DOG? LICENSE YOUR DOG!**