



Dogs are Barking About...

PA Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Spring 2016

Why We Need Purebred Dog Breeders

Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club, Inc.
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 Cardigan Welsh Corgi Assoc.
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club
Delaware Valley Havanese Club
Delaware Valley Toy Dog Fanciers
Delaware Valley Weimaraner Club
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
Great Dane Club Of Lehigh Valley LLC
Great Dane Club Of Pennsylvania Inc
Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Assoc.
Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club
Greater Pittsburgh Labrador Retriever Club
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
Keeshond Club of the Delaware Valley
Kennel Club Of Philadelphia
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.
Lancaster Kennel Club
Lebanon County Kennel Club

With the Westminster Kennel Club dog show recently on TV, it inevitably stirs debate about purebred dogs. These days, a vocal segment of the population detests purebred dogs and their breeders. Whether this is a class issue, a generational issue, politics, or something else, it's hard to say, but it goes far beyond the facts about breeders and their dogs.

Today there are over 400 recognized breeds of dogs in the world. Many of them have historical origins dating back hundreds, even thousands of years. Wherever humans have lived, dogs have been alongside them performing various tasks. One of the reasons dogs have been such a successful species is because they are so adaptable. They have made themselves useful in countless ways to humans so we kept feeding them, providing shelter for them, and, yes, breeding them. It's no accident that we have dogs able to hunt, herd, guard, track, and do so many other things at an expert level. Humans figured out early on that if you bred dogs that were good at these things, you would get offspring that were also good at doing them. All of these jobs performed by dogs were necessary for our own species to survive. It's no secret that we owe a lot to dogs, just as we do to other animals.

Today some of these jobs are performed in other ways and dogs don't do the work they used to do. Hunting is a sport today and most of us don't have to hunt with dogs to put food on the table. English Cocker Spaniels and Irish Setters are more popular as family pets than as hunting dogs. Dogs aren't commonly used to kill rats today and it's been a long time since the adorable Yorkshire Terrier, originally bred to kill vermin in textile mills, was used for this kind of work. Dogs still have some specialized uses for search and rescue, narcotics detection and other kinds of detection, along with other specialized skills such as therapy dog work, but most people don't need to use dogs for work. Nevertheless, breeds still have their admirers. Some people love a dog's appearance. Some people love a breed because they are from the same tiny corner of the world and they feel a kinship with the dogs of their ancestors. Some people love the temperament of a certain breed or its athletic ability. There are all kinds of reasons why people love a particular breed.

What you may not know is that many breeds today have very small populations. If some breeds were any other kind of animal they would be considered endangered. You may find it hard to believe, but breeds can become extinct. If you read any histories about dog breeds, you will find lots of references to breeds that are gone now. Countless breeds have become extinct over the centuries. In some cases, we have some of their descendants because they contributed to newer breeds, but not always. Some people might not care if particular breeds become extinct, but if you are a fan of a breed, then this might matter to you. From a genetic viewpoint, it's always good to have a wide selection of dogs that contributed to a breed's foundation. You never know when it might be necessary to reintroduce some of the genes from an older breed for health reasons. If those breeds are extinct, that's no longer a possibility.

In Great Britain the Kennel Club maintains a list of "vulnerable native

Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club
 Lehigh Valley Coursing Club
 Lehigh Valley Kennel 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
 Mountain Laurel Kennel Club
 Mt Nittany Dog Training Club
 Nita-Nee Kennel Club
 Old York Road Dog Training Club
 Penn Ridge Kennel Club
 Penn Treaty Kennel Club
 Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club
 Philadelphia Dog Training Club
 Pocono Mountain Kennel 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
 William Penn West Highland White
 Terrier Club
 Williamsport Dog Training Club
 York County Dog Training Club

breeds." This refers to breeds developed in the U.K. that register fewer than 300 individual dogs per year. There are currently about 29 breeds on this list, with more breeds on the "atch" list, meaning they are close to "vulnerable" status. Although the Kennel Club in Britain registers fewer dogs than we do in the U.S., the situation with purebred dogs in the U.S. is similar. While the Labrador Retriever - the top dog registered by the AKC for over 20 years - has tens of thousands of individual registrations every year, other breeds have far fewer numbers. Beyond a few popular breeds, most breeds have relatively small numbers of dogs registered each year. We have many breeds in the U.S. that register only a few hundred individual dogs per year.

That's why we need breeders of purebred dogs today. People who breed to preserve dog breeds are usually hobbyists. They may participate in dog shows or companion/performance events with their dogs. The dogs that they can't keep are usually placed in pet homes. Yet cities and state legislatures are passing laws that can make it virtually impossible for smaller breeders to continue this important work.

For example, a bill currently under consideration in New Jersey would ban breeders from selling dogs outside the state unless the sale was made face-to-face. If you are a breeder in New Jersey and a potential buyer in say, California, is interested in one of your dogs, this buyer would have to come to New Jersey to see and buy the dog. Or the breeder would have to take the dog to California. This is obviously onerous and unnecessary. It also adds a tremendous expense to the cost of the dog. This kind of legislation is proposed in the name of "consumer protection" but it is actually meant to punish and discourage dog breeding.

Before you say that the person in California could find another dog closer to home, what if the New Jersey breeder is one of the few people in the country breeding that particular breed? In many cases we are talking about breeds that may only register a few litters per year. That's why this kind of legislation is so dangerous. In some cases it could literally cause the extinction of breeds. Breeders give up breeding rather than face these kinds of legislative problems.

Other breeding bills lump small breeders in with large commercial breeders. Small breeders are in no way able to meet some of the kennel requirements written for large commercial establishments because they typically keep their dogs in their home as pets.

No one is suggesting that people should not get a dog from a shelter or rescue if that's what they want to do. Many breed clubs were among the first dog rescue groups in the U.S. Breeders love dogs and believe in rescue. But people should also have the option to purchase a purebred dog from a dedicated breeder without harassment or guilt. And breeders should be able to breed their dogs without punitive laws.

The wonderful dogs that appeared at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show do not happen by accident. They take years of planning and loving work on the part of dedicated breeders. We can't let those breeders - or the breeds so many people love - become the victims of short-sighted anti-purebred legislation.

— **Carlotta Cooper** (*This article from the AKC newsletter was originally published in the Huffington Post*)

The primary campaigners against purebred dog breeders and breeds, and for that matter all domestic animal breeders and breeds, are the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), whose chairman Wayne Pacell states constantly that his aim is "one generation and out", and its partner People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Their villifying of purebred breeders with huge national propaganda and lobbying campaigns, and physical attacks on medical research facilities, is constant and dangerous. Their publicizing support of shelter adoption (read purchasing) has contributed greatly to the importation of animals from out of the USA and transfer from state to state that have diseases and other health problems, and is creating the expansion of the very "puppy mill" breeding cash crops that they purport to stop.

—**James F. Scharnberg** (*Member Board of Directors of the PFDC and the National Beagle Club, Member PA Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Advisory Board*)

Upcoming Member Events

- Interstate Shetland Sheepdog Club, June 12 - Specialty Match, Macungie, PA
- Berks County Kennel Club - All About Dogs Day - Saturday, June 25 - Liberty Fire Company, 836 Ruth Street, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 - 10 am to 3 pm - booths featuring over 20 different breeds of dogs; demonstrations on obedience, nosework, disc dogs, field retrieving. Free parking and admission.
 - PA Federation of Dog Clubs, Annual Delegates Meeting, June 22, 2016 at the Perkins in Lewisburg. The meeting will start at 7 PM, so arrive between 5:30 and 7 if you'd like to eat dinner before hand.
 - Southeastern Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club picnic and meeting, OTCH training center, June 25, 2016, 11 AM to 3 PM. Look us up on Facebook for more details.
 - Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg, UKC conformation shows, July 30-31, 2016. See website otchpa.com for more details.
 - KanDo K9 Sports Association has UKC Obedience and Rally Trials July 16th and 17th, Colmar, PA.
 - Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, All-Breed Conformation Show, Obedience and Rally Trial, Sept 17, 2016. This event is part of the: Blue Mountain Cluster, Sept 15-18.
 - KanDo K9 Sports Association has UKC Rally Trials October 8-9, Colmar, PA
 - Interstate Shetland Sheepdog Club, Oct 9 – Fall Specialty, 2 shows in one day, 1 Obedience Trial for Shelties, 1 Open to all Herding Groups; Oct 30 - Annual Health Clinic
 - 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.
 - KanDo K9 Sports Assn. has Show N Go "Hair of the Dog" January 1, 2017 Nazareth, PA.

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.

The following from the latest NAIA newsletter about the state of Colorado's problems is all too typical nationwide. In the midst of holiday pet adoption season, the state of Colorado issued a warning: **check out the animals that are up for adoption.** Some rescue organizations and shelters bring animals to Colorado from out of state and officials are seeing an increasing number of animals with infections coming to Colorado.

Nick Fisher, the program administrator of Colorado's Pet Animal Care and Facilities Act Program (PACFA), says heartworm and Canine Distemper are relatively new to Colorado. The viruses were likely brought here from animals that were rescued from areas like Texas, where there are known viral outbreaks. "It's a pretty big deal right now," Fisher said. "There's a lot of dogs coming into the state. We've seen an increase in the last three years." Fisher says this is a big problem because rescue animals with possible infections are often immediately adopted, without being checked. In Colorado, the only paperwork required for out of state rescue animals is a CVI, or a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Fisher says it often doesn't catch infections and diseases that are crossing borders. "A lot of times [CVI's] are not the greatest things in the world because a lot of times the vet will just look at the dog," Fisher said, "they'll say, 'yea the dog looks good,' and then the dog

gets transferred."

In November, Aurora resident Tesla Hock adopted Bentley, a lab mix puppy from Colorado Puppy Rescue, a certified nonprofit organization. At first, everything was fine. Then, Bentley's health began to deteriorate. "He kept having seizure after seizure," Hock said. "The seizures didn't stop, they got worse." Bentley who was rescued from Texas, died of Canine Distemper, a highly contagious and often deadly virus just three weeks after he was adopted. "It was hard to see him go through so much pain because I cared so much about him," Hock said.

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.

State officials say 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

- 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. **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 373 (Alloway) – amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to prohibit the prolonged tethering of an unattended dog, unless certain exceptions are met, as well as provides minimum shelter requirements for dogs kept outdoors or in an unheated enclosure, and provides for penalties. Status: passed the Senate 45-5 on June 3, 2015, and awaits further consideration by the House Judiciary Committee. **We oppose.**

- 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 not 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!**

Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs Continued Support of the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team

The PFDC sent a statement of support to all Legislators in Harrisburg in January 2016. In response to that letter, Representative Stephen Barrar, Chairman of the PA House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

Committee, invited PFDC Board members to a meeting in his office on February 10, 2016 to discuss our concerns. PFDC President Darin Cox and PASART Executive Director Joel Hersh met with Representative Barrar, Committee Executive Director Rick O'Leary and Legislative Analyst Sean Harris. The meeting went extremely well, and we were invited to present our case at a full committee hearing on March 9, 2016.

PFDC President Darin Cox appeared at the committee hearing. The hearing turned out to be a joint session with the PA Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and it was scheduled to begin at 1 PM. They got started a half-hour late and there were many speakers scheduled before us, some of whom exceeded their allotted time. Darin did not sit down at the microphones until 4:30 PM. By that time, many committee members had left, but the Chairmen, Executive Director and analysts of the Committees were still there. Darin had submitted written testimony to the committee prior to the hearing, and that was distributed along with all other testimony, to everyone in attendance. Given the lateness of the day, Darin did not read his testimony in its entirety but hit some highlights. Both Representative Barrar and Senator Vulakovich asked follow up questions from Darin's testimony indicating support for and interest in the material presented.

Since then, the PA Federation of Dog Clubs has requested to the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committees of both the House and Senate that a line item be added to the 2016-2017 PA budget specifically for the PA State Animal Response Team. Feedback from the committee indicates the request has the support of both Chairmen, and it has been forwarded to the Appropriations Committee who is currently working on that next budget. The PFDC is strongly encouraging all its member organizations to contact their PA State Representatives and State Senators to support the PASART line item in the budget.

The PASART Board is accepting résumés for the position of Executive Director since Joel Hersh announced his intention to retire effective June 30, 2016. He is willing to stay on as a volunteer beyond that to get a new person up to speed. However, given the funding uncertainty, finding good candidates will be difficult because the Board does not know what salary it can offer. The Board is also considering other affiliation proposals similar to the Humane PA offer that fell apart last year. The PFDC is sincerely hoping to avoid such affiliations for PASART if possible because of political entanglements that almost always ensue.

PFDC President Darin Cox will be presenting the PASART Sheltering Trailer for western PA at the Memorial Day Cluster in New Castle, PA, May 26-29, 2016. Members of PFDC member organizations can join him in touring the trailer and meeting & greeting show attendees to talk about PASART. They may also buy raffle tickets for official PFDC logo shirts, which will be drawn on Monday, May 30. Tickets will be \$1 a piece or 6 for \$5, and the shirts will be shipped free of charge to the winner. Contact Darin at President@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org if you want tickets but cannot make it to the show cluster.

Outstanding Member Club

Hello all clubs! Each year the PA Federation of Dog Clubs asks its clubs to enter the Outstanding Member Club contest by sending your club's qualifications to Elaine Miller. Her committee will evaluate all of your documents.

Show how your club reaches out to the community, such as educational booths at community fairs, parks, or at schools; purchase of oxygen masks and bullet proof vests for the working dogs, rescue dogs, and police and fire dogs; reading to the children programs with their dogs; and community events including the canine blood mobile. Tell us what your clubs have done in the past year.

The first prize is \$200, second prize \$100, and two honorable mentions \$50.00, plus certificates.

Please send entries by **REGULAR MAIL ONLY** to Elaine Miller, 3616 Apple Butter Road, Dublin, PA 18917. The deadline, so that the committee has time to judge the entries, is August 10th. Please encourage your club to participate.

Outstanding Person or Dog

We also have an individual award. We'd like for you to nominate from your club a person who has done something outstanding for dogs, or a dog that has done something outstanding. Your nomination basically needs to include the name of the nominating club, contact information for the club in case we have questions, the name of the person or the name of the owner of the dog who did something outstanding, and a couple paragraphs about what the person or dog did to deserve the award. Photographs would be great as well.

