



# Dogs are Barking About...

Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter #2

Fall 2020

## Legislation Report 11/30/2020

Admiral Perry Obedience DTC  
Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia  
Allentown DTC  
Anthracite Brittany Club  
Back Mountain Kennel Club  
Bald Eagle Kennel Club  
Berks County DTC  
Berks County Kennel Club  
Bernese Mt Dog Club of Watchung  
Borzo Club of Delaware Valley  
Bucks County Kennel Club  
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia Inc.  
Bulldog Club of Philadelphia  
Butler County Kennel Club  
Butler Dog Training Association  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel of Delaware Valley  
Chambersburg Area Kennel Club  
Colonial Rottweiler Club  
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County  
Dauphin Dog Training Club  
Delaware County Kennel Club  
Delaware Valley Bullmastiff Club  
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club  
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club  
Delaware Valley Havanese Club  
Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club  
Delaware Valley Toy Dog Fanciers Assoc.  
Delaware Valley Weimaraner Club  
Delaware Valley Yorkshire Terrier Club  
Devon Dog Show Association  
Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA  
Dog Training Center of Chester County PA, Inc.  
Dog Training Club of York  
Erie Kennel Club  
Great Dane Club of Lehigh Valley  
Great Dane Club of Pennsylvania  
Greater Philadelphia DFA  
Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club  
Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club  
Harrisburg Kennel Club  
Hatboro Dog Club  
Hilltown Dog Training Club  
Huntington Valley Kennel Club  
Inter-State Shetland Sheepdog Club of PA  
Irish Wolfhound Association of Delaware Valley  
Kan-Do K9 Sports Association  
Keeshond Club of Delaware Valley

All legislative proposals listed below will die at the end of the year when the 2019-2020 Session of the Legislature concludes. Anything that did not pass into Law, will have to be re-introduced starting in January 2021.

**SB1267 (Yaw)** – Establishing a Animal Welfare Task Force. The legislature is tired of hearing from all the HSUS supporters about Victoria’s Bill, the Outdoor Enclosures Bill and others listed below, so they want to set up this Task Force to filter the proposals before getting to them. The Task Force would research the issues and unintended consequences of the various proposals and only pass on the viable ones to become Bills. As currently written, there would be insufficient representation required on the Task Force for hobby breeders and dog sport enthusiasts. Also, since many of those sitting on the Task Force would be selected by the Governor, he could easily appoint people who meet the criteria outlined in the proposal and who support HSUS or other radical animal groups. We have been assured that these flaws will be addressed before the Bill is re-introduced in the next session.

**SB44 (Killion)** – Pet Retail Sales (Victoria’s Bill) – We oppose the retail restrictions in the Bill. We do not oppose the reporting requirements in it.

- Tough changes to Dog Law and kennel regulations enacted in 2008-2009 need to be adequately funded before new legislation is considered.
- If this SB44 is enacted, what’s next? Backyard breeders or hobby breeders? We were told the 2008-2009 reforms would be the solution, but they’re back any way.
- The numbers in the beginning of SB44 are made up by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) from whole cloth, not scientific basis because mandatory shelter reporting opposed by HSUS, etc.
- There are only 31 brick & mortar pet stores statewide selling puppies from commercial kennels according to HSUS on WHP580, Thursday, April 18, 2019.
- Puppy Lemon Law much more effective. We support SB302 below.

**SB551 (K. Ward)** - Applying restrictions to outdoor enclosures like kennel runs or fenced yards like those applied to tethering in “Libre’s Law”.

PA has Cruelty Laws and “Libre’s Law” toughened the penalties. Just enforce them.

One-size-fits-all restrictions are not fair to some breeds that thrive in weather extremes. Confusing, heavy-handed mandates will result in a lot of surrenders to shelters & rescues. This may be a bonus for some shelters & rescues needing adoptable animals to bolster adoption fees.

**SB302 (K. Ward)** – Enhancements to the Dog Purchaser Protection Act. We support this and believe it should move well before any consideration of restrictive mandates like Victoria’s Bill (SB44).

**SB85 (Phillips-Hill)** - Service Dog License Fee exemptions. We do not oppose.

Kennel Club of Philadelphia  
 Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh  
 Keystone English Springer Spaniel Club  
 Lancaster Kennel Club  
 Lebanon County Kennel Club  
 Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club  
 Lehigh Valley Coursing Club  
 Lehigh Valley Kennel Club  
 Lenape Golden Retriever Club  
 Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers  
 Lower Bucks Dog Training Club  
 Lower Susquehanna Bulldog Club  
 Mid Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club  
 Middle Atlantic St Bernard Club  
 Mifflin County Dog Training Club  
 Montgomery County Kennel Club  
 Mt. Nittany DTC  
 Nita-Nee Kennel Club  
 Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg  
 Old York Road DTC  
 PA Sportmen's Alliance  
 Penn Ridge Kennel Club  
 Penn Treaty Kennel Club  
 Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club  
 Philadelphia DTC  
 Pocono Mountain Kennel Club  
 Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley  
 Quaker City Doberman Pinscher Club  
 Saucon Valley Boxer Club  
 Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club  
 Siberian Husky Club of Delaware Valley  
 Skycastle French Hounds  
 South Eastern Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club  
 South Hills Kennel Club  
 Suburban Dog Training Club of  
     Eastern Mont-gomery County  
 Tri State Dog Obedience Club  
 Waterland Retriever Club  
 Western PA Dachshund Club  
 Westmoreland County Obedience Training Club  
 William Penn Poodle Club  
 William Penn West Highland White Terrier Club  
 Williamsport Dog Training Club  
 York County Dog Training Club

## **(Legislation Report, Continued)**

**SB455 (Brooks)** – Sales Tax Exemption for Service Dog Products and Services. We do not oppose.

**SB29 (Brooks)** – Lost Dog Registry. We support this Bill but would like to see it amended to require agencies that adopt out pets to check it on intake and placement.

**HB840 (Murt)** – Therapy Dogs for Veterans and Others. We support this Bill. It would allow for the presence of Therapy Dogs, their handlers and trainers on public transportation. It would also direct the Department of Agriculture to develop guidelines to recognize legitimate Therapy Dog certification and training organizations.

**HB368 (Rothman)** – Home-based pet care exempt from definition of “Boarding Kennel.” This Bill seeks to exempt homes that board five or less dogs for compensation from the definition of a “boarding kennel.” This will preclude such homeowners from getting a boarding kennel license. We would like to know if the dogs kept by such a home-based provider would be counted toward the private kennel license limit of 26 dogs handled in a calendar year. We support the Bill as currently written.

**HB290 (Simmons & Sturla)** – Amends food safety laws to allow restaurants to allow customers to bring their pet dogs to outdoor dining areas. We support this Bill.

**HB737 (McNeill)** – This Bill would define transporting of dogs in the open area of a vehicle (pick-up truck bed, roof-rack, hitch carrier, etc.) as cruelty. It specifically only applies to public roads, so hunters should not be impacted while on private grounds. We do not oppose.

**HB816 (Conklin)** – This Bill would require police and other agencies that employ dogs for detection and protection to have emergency notification systems should excess temperatures develop. We support this but wonder how it would be funded.

**HB521 (Schlossberg)** – Seeks to make the “shelter pet” the official pet of PA. We oppose this Bill as the “facts” laid out to justify it are not scientifically supported.

**SB534 (Dinniman)** – Similar to HB238 below. We support this.

**SB364 (Dinniman)** – Pet Cruelty in domestic violence situations. We support this.

**HB 238 (Readshaw)** – Adopting out former research dogs and cats. We support this. NAIA and Homes for Animal Heroes is already doing this in other states.

**HR82 (Schlossberg)** – Resolution of support for World Spay Day. We oppose this as the “facts” laid out to justify it are not scientifically supported.

**HB822 (Conklin)** – This Bill would allow Counties to employ Humane Police Officers in lieu of a Humane Society or SPCA doing so in their jurisdiction. We do not oppose this.

**HB2104 (Hohenstein)** – Outdoor dogs, House version of SB551. Our comments are the same for both.

**HB2207 (Markosek)** – Sales to laboratories

**HB2238 (Neilson)** - Disclosure of information on dogs sold at pet shops. We would only support this if the same reporting requirements applied to shelters and rescues.

**HR654 (Schlossberg) & HR82** – World Spay Day declaration. The preamble is filled with baseless assertions regarding the need for spaying/neutering.

**SB61 (J. Ward)** – Extends eligibility for wine & spirits auction permits to some animal related charities. We support this.

## **(Legislation Report, Continued)**

### **Potential Proposals**

Moving training and enforcement of standards for Humane Society Police Officers from the Department of Agriculture to the Attorney General’s Office.

- Proposal supporters believe Dept. of Agriculture biased in favor of farmers and against HSUS.
- Insults professionalism of employees of Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement.
- Proposal supporters believe Attorney General would be more inclined to outsource the training and oversight program to HSUS.
- Proposal supporters would like to see the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement under the AG’s office. This has been proposed in the past.

**Changes to the Animal Seizure Law** (HB82 of 2013) to protect the rights of those accused of animal cruelty but subsequently not convicted. Anyone accused of Animal Cruelty, who has their animals confiscated, is currently subjected to a hearing to set the cost of room & board for their animal pending trial. If they cannot afford to pay the set costs, their animals can be given to the shelter for adoption. We want language added to force the return of the animals at no cost to the original owner if they are not convicted.

#### **Support for the PA State Animal Response Team.**

Everyone who loves their pets and farm animals needs to have a plan if disaster strikes. PA is fortunate to have

teams in place to aid owners in times of disaster, and we need to impress upon the Legislature how important this program is to us. A large investment has already been made in equipment and training, so it would be a huge waste of taxpayer dollars to lose that readiness due to a current lack of upkeep.

#### **Lowering the Threshold for Requiring a Kennel License or Creating a New Class of Kennel License.**

This idea was floated by the Federated Humane Societies of PA President Amy Kaunas at recent hearings on Dog Law proposals pending in the Legislature. Unfortunately, the Director of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement endorsed the idea. They were suggesting there is a sizable problem with hobby kennels having inhumane conditions and needing to be regulated. For come in communities that ban licensed kennels, this would put some of our constituents in jeopardy of losing their home or drastically reducing the number of dogs they have. It would also erode the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment Rights of hobby breeders by subjecting them to new intrusions into their homes by government officials ostensibly inspecting their “kennels”, since most people in this group raise their dogs and puppies in their kitchens, dining rooms, living rooms, bedrooms, family rooms, etc. We will fight this idea at every turn.



## **Westtown Dog Law**

Throughout the fall, Chester County’s Westtown Township (where I live) has been developing a dog ordinance. A resident’s complaint about a neighbor not picking up after their dog revealed that the township code lacked provisions addressing animal nuisance matters – certainly a valid and appropriate concern affecting resident quality of life and other related issues.

The original “pooper scooper” problem morphed into a proposal to cover other nuisance issues such as barking and running loose, impose stricter limits on the number of dogs, increase pasturage requirements, restrict operations such as dog training and grooming by defining them as kennels, etc. As well, without providing for any exceptions to the “leash law” section, the ordinance would have precluded engaging in and training for many legitimate activities such as police dog work, search and rescue, assistance dogs, working dogs (e.g. herding).

Fortunately, I became aware of the proposal while it was still at the Planning Commission stage. (Quick civics lesson: the appointed Planning Commission advises the elected Board of Supervisors, which in turn has the authority to enact ordinances, amendments, etc.) An email to Darin Cox immediately enlisted the

Federation’s help. Darin supplied AKC print resources and reached out to AKC Government Relations and engaged Legislative Analyst/Community Outreach Coordinator Charles Hall’s assistance. The Federation and I wrote letters. A silver lining in the current remote Zoom meeting situation is that both Charley and I have been able to sit in on the PC meetings. Charley has had a number of off-line discussions with Township Planning staff, and shared best practice examples of model ordinance language. The process has been a good example of democracy at work; Commissioners and staff have been receptive to both citizen and subject matter expert input. The draft ordinance is on the December meeting agenda. The Commission hopes to finalize the draft ordinance language and vote to recommend it to the Board of Supervisors. The current draft addresses core nuisance issues and incorporates appropriate exceptions (such as working dogs as noted above). So barring any unexpected plot twists, it looks like this story will have a happy ending. Thank you, Darin, Charley, and the PFDC Board!

Chris Allen, PDTTC Delegate

# Stanley Reports on Testifying before the PA Senate Judiciary Committee

My name is Jonathan Stanley and I am a Pennsylvania resident holding a kennel license, and I would like to share with you an experience I had recently when I was asked to testify before the PA Senate Judiciary Committee. The hearing was held at 9:00 am on October 20th and while some of the Senators were in the Capitol, the rest of the panel participants all dropped in via Zoom. I do wish that we had the opportunity to testify in person. Over the past few years, I have developed a good working relationship with my State Senator Gene Yaw and State Representative Clint Owlett. As a constituent who owns a kennel which is inspected by the Dept. of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law, I am also vice president of an AKC all breed club in NY and have been active, serving as its legislative liaison for the past 3 years. I am a member of the NAIA and the Cavalry Group and my wife Donna Stanley is an AKC Breeder of Merit. The purpose of the hearing was to consider dog law in general, both those that have passed and Bills which have been proposed. All participants were asked to comment specifically on SB#44 commonly known as Victoria's Bill, which for me was something that I have acquainted myself with by watching legislation and reporting it to my club. Assuredly, I had a lot more on my mind to comment on rather than a bill I consider a propaganda distraction. The links of all the verbal and written testimony before the Judiciary Committee are posted here in the newsletter for your review, but I would like to share some of my impressions.

Dealing with the staff Legislative Directors and those who co-ordinated the hearing was a great experience. Everyone was responsive and helpful. I felt briefed and aware of what to expect. As I networked with others I consider to be allies in the legislative process, I was really helped by consulting with the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, the AKC, and the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association. In differing ways, these organizations helped to coach me

and help me refine what I wanted to say so that I would be clear, correct and direct. I think this pointed out to me how much we need to unite together as lovers of our breeds and insist on common sense dog law that benefits the dog according to our state and federal constitutions.

If you were to tell me that we as guardians of the breeds are united, then I would respond that I am glad you are a uniter and working for the cause of pure-bred dogs and dogs in general. I would also ask you what you personally are doing so that we could unite in our efforts. Because, in the trenches it seems we are fighting an uphill battle against a much better financed and organized opponent. For example, there was a whole lot of money at the HSUS table, and they are the ones driving the conversation rather than the people such as the PFDC membership who know and care for dogs. They not only drive the conversation but create the narrative by using emotional propaganda to put their targets on the defense. I am of clear opinion that the animal rights agenda will never stop creating new frontiers nor be willing to be compromised with. They only take over. In the eyes of their most passionate protagonists, animals should have rights such as humans and a vegan world is the only just world. A review of animal laws in Europe will give you an idea of their short term aims. I am also of the opinion that our constitution is unique and different from European Constitutions and Americans have rights afforded them here in the USA that are unique throughout the world.

I come away from this experience knowing we all need to be more aware of the overall creeping agenda of animal rights activist organizations. Their ever-marching drumbeat is an assault on Americans' right to own pets of their choice and animal enterprise of all sorts needs to be protected. For example, we have no working animal law here in PA, but the AR's have closed down horse drawn carriages in New York and Chicago already. Do not be drawn in to look

## (Stanley's Report, Continued)

socially acceptable as a supporter of the HSUS, PETA or their loose affiliation of team members. They will not stop coming for your God ordained constitutionally guaranteed personal rights in the name of "Animal Rights."

As to the final disposition of the hearing, my Senator called me the next day and was kind in thanking me for my participation, while assured me that no proposed laws by the HSUS would pass Judiciary Committee this year. Next year, the only aim will be to pass SB # 1267 forming a Commission to make a formal review of all dog law before any more dog law will ever be passed out of Judiciary Committee. We are now seeking to expand that proposed committee to include

more people who are in the breed, or in the trade. I would recommend you contact your state senators and tell them you support SB #1267 with the addition of more representatives from those who actually love and care for the breeds rather than those who simply seek to legislate animal rights.

I'll leave you with the last thing Senator Yaw said to me: "Stay Involved"!

Here is the link to all the Judiciary Committee hearing testimony: <https://judiciary.pasenategop.com/102020/?fbclid=IwAR0-HuJ2YHEnw1ciVAS9SNcvAQV71QqIblAwoBQD4PjQ-R4EyWPIIBa4G78>



## Upcoming Events



- **The Bucks County Kennel Club** is making plans for their May 8, 2021, show. It will be their 79th annual all-breed and obedience show to be held once again outdoors on the beautiful grounds at Tinicum Park in Erwinna, PA. Usually hosting close to 30 specialties or supported entries. Lots of major entries in many breeds.



- **The Chambersburg Area Kennel Club** is planning two days of unbenched all breed and all breed junior showmanship events on Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15, 2021, at the Carlisle Expo Center. AKC National Owner-Handled Series is offered at these events, as well as Bred-By Exhibitor competition.



- **The Kennel Club of Philadelphia** will host two benched shows in 2021. They are set for Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20 and 21, 2021, at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks, PA 19456.



## HSLF Presidential Endorsement

The Political Action Committee (PAC) of the Humane Society of the US (HSUS) is called the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF). Here is a post from their website...

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

Today, the Humane Society Legislative Fund

endorses Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris in their bid to lead the nation. Biden and Harris have established themselves as good faith actors in sponsoring and supporting animal protection legislation and policies through the years, and it's easy to endorse them straight up on the basis of their records.

# Club Spotlight: Lancaster Kennel Club

For over 70 years, the Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc. has served dog lovers in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

In 1949, the Lancaster Kennel Club was elected into the American Kennel Club as a full voting member club by unanimous vote.

Our shows have grown to almost five times the size of the original show and now include classes in Obedience and Junior Showmanship.

Through the years, the LKC has continued to educate its members and the public about canine health and welfare. We actively promote responsible legislation and education for the residents of Lancaster County, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Nation.



In addition to our conformation and agility point shows, current club events include annual chip clinics, a breeder referral program, providing 2 veterinary education scholarships, and offering educational programs and seminars for our membership and the community focused Responsible Dog Ownership Day in September.

Website: <http://www.lancasterkennelclub.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lancaster-Kennel-Club-629336297168154/>



**LICENSE YOUR DOG.**

**WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION A LOST DOG  
*may never make it home.***

***License your dog by January 1st: [www.licenseyourdogpa.com](http://www.licenseyourdogpa.com)***

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Second Vice President (Legislative Chair): Julian Prager    Treasurer: Kim Blyler    Secretary: Bettina Sterling

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Danna Deimler, and Linda Witouski

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