



Bucks Barker

Newsletter of The Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Inc.

March 2024

LBDTC Board of Directors

President: Liz Turner

Vice President:
Helen Shaup

Recording Secretary:
Ken McKinney

Corresponding Secretary:
Judith Youngken

Treasurer: Kris King

Board Members -
Nancy Andreas
Claire Amy Roberts

Past President
Florence Brems

Training Director:
Judy Matlack

Training Administrators:
Carol McKinney & Robin Kinley

LBDTC
P.O. Box 476
Langhorne, PA 19047
(215) 493-1201

LBDTC Training Site
8746 New Falls Road
Levittown, PA 19054
<http://lbdtc.org/>

Newsletter Editor:
Florence Brems
7 Ardsley Court
Newtown, PA 18940
H: 215-504-0576
C: 215-715-0325
Email: silkys4ever@yahoo.com

Next Meeting

**Monday
March 4, 2024
7:30 PM**

**LBDTC Training Site
8746 New Falls Road
Levittown, PA 19054**

**A LBDTC Board Meeting
will follow the general
membership meeting**



Congratulations!

Linda Morrin says - My 2 girls live scent work!! Terri makes lessons so challenging that trials are easy for them! (If I don't mess up). Ruby is competing in excellent, and Emily is finishing advance and moving into excellent. I can't work then both in 1 trial so its taking longer. I enjoy seeing what they can do! Anyone interested contact Terri!



Morrin girls at scent training lesson with Terri. They love it!!! Doing well!

Thank You

I was surprised and overwhelmed with the honor of receiving the President's award.

Thank you all so much. We do it for the dogs!

Gratefully,
Mary Ann McCardle

Training Committee

Winter classes come to a close. Some ended the week of February 26, and some because of weather cancellations will end the week of March 11. Also, due to these delays, our spring session will now be March 25th - May 18th.

Our spring classes will be as follows:
Mondays - Foundations Rally and Rally Novice

Tuesdays - Beginner and Advanced Obedience
Wednesdays - Advanced Obedience
Thursdays - AKC Star Puppy and Intro. to Agility
Saturdays - Beginner Obedience

February was a busy month for club photos with the puppy bowl in some classes, the Career Fair at Pennsbury School District, the ISC International Agility trials, and our normal class and member submissions. So, enjoy all the photos this month!

There will be a training committee meeting on March 16th at 11:10 after MaryAnn's class. Hopefully, no snow cancellations this time.

The registration period for the spring session is open until March 21st, so pass the word for people who might be interested.

Thanks,
Carol, Robin, Judy

Meet the Breeds

Meet The Breed in The Big Apple NY 2024 is in the Books!! Our Boys, Maverick, Memphis & River were such great breed ambassadors.

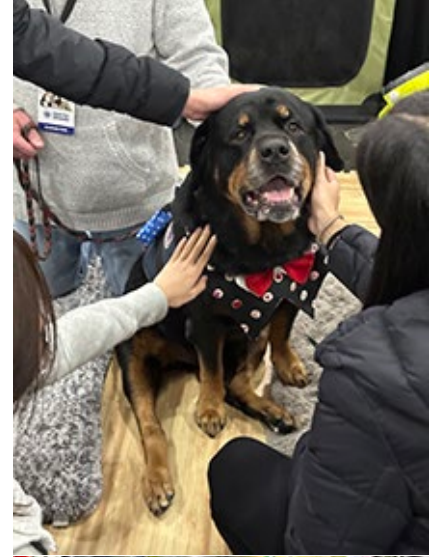
This was Maverick's 8th year of being a Breed Ambassador for this event. He came both days and enjoyed every single minute!! He loved meeting the hundreds of people that came by and gave him some love!! He got to show his little Rottweiler brother Memphis how to work the crowd. We are so incredibly proud of everything, this boy does. He

always gives 150% no matter what. 8 months post surgery and he was a Rock!!!

This was Memphis's first year of being a Breed Ambassador for this event. Big shout out to Clare Weikel for coming along and handling him in the Rottweiler Booth. Memphis was awesome for this first event. We are so proud of this boy for being around all the other Rottweilers and hundreds of people and he handled himself like a Star!!

This was River's 2nd year of being a Breed Ambassador for this event. He came both days and knocked it out of the park!! Sometimes being the only Golden Retriever in the Booth!! He let hundreds of people meet him and pet him!! We are so proud of this boy!!!

Patrick & Donna Worthington



Agility Class

The introduction to agility class was a huge success with some very talented dogs in attendance. Although the class was small, participants enjoyed learning the ropes and testing their skills which led to a positive exposure to the thrills

of agility. Special thanks to Kris King for her assistance and to Roger for dropping in and taking some nice photos.

Kim Kinney



Pennsbury High School Career Night

Diane with Molly, Helen with Rookie, and Peg with Jamie presented at the career fair at Pennsbury High School on Monday evening. Attendance was very good and we had a place right by the door, so the pooches got lots of attention, pets and admiration. We spoke to students as they stopped by about careers connected to dogs, and handed out information that they could take with them. We ran out of handouts toward the end of the night, but people took photos of the display for information that was there. There were handouts from AKC as well that were available, and we passed out LBDC business cards also. Many students come to the fair looking for summer work experiences and asked about jobs with us, so we had to explain about being a nonprofit to them. Next year, if anyone knows of places that we could recommend to them that would need summer help and would give them experience in a dog-related career environment, that might be a nice addition to our presentation.

Peg Lehnen

Please see photos below.

AKC Legislation Alert

Dear LBDC members,
I was asked by Liz and Judi to forward this information to you. Please read and forward this message to friends and family.
Regards, Ken
Please see Alert below.

B,A,R.K. in the Park

Judi Youngken would like to share this regional event with our membership.

Hi folks,

I hope this email finds you well. The Valley Forge Park Alliance, the park's nonprofit partner, is hosting its 2nd Annual B.A.R.K. in the Park celebration on April 28, 2024 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM (weather permitting).

It's a fun community event where canines can get inducted as "Bark Rangers" by our park rangers. There'll also be pup-centric vendors and activities. It's a fun time!

Please spread the word if you think anybody in your circle would be interested to know about it. We'll have more information soon, but for now, we're passing along our flier for your use.

Best,
Allie Kochinsky
Development Coordinator
Valley Forge Park Alliance

Please see the flyer below.

PA Federation of Dog Clubs Legislation Reports

Lois DiMarzio, our PA Federation of Dog Clubs Representative, wants to share the information below from the PA Federation of Dog Clubs.



Puppy Bowl 2024

Please see the article and photos below.

LBDTC ISC Agility Trial February 22, 2024

**LBDTC ISC Agility Trial
Thursday, February 22, 2024**

Please see photos below.

LBDTC Obedience/ Rally Trials April 20 & 21, 2024

**LBDTC Obedience Trial
Saturday, April 20, 2024**

**LBDTC Rally Trial
Sunday, April 21, 2024**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

[Premium List](#)

LBDTC Agility Trial May 19, 2024

**Agility Trial
Sunday, May 19, 2024**

United Dog
1957 Pioneer Road, Unit B-6
Huntingdon Valley, PA, 19006

Entries Open: April 2, 2024,
8:00am
Entries Close: April 30, 2024,
6:00pm

LBDTC Agility Trials June 7, 8 & 9, 2024

**Agility Trials
Friday, June 7, 2024
Saturday, June 8, 2024
Sunday, June 9, 2024**

United Dog
1957 Pioneer Road, Unit B-6
Huntingdon Valley, PA, 19006

Entries Open: April 23, 2024,
8:00am
Entries Close: May 21, 2024,
6:00pm

LBDTC Obedience/ Rally Trials July 6 & 7, 2024

**LBDTC Obedience Trial
Saturday, July 6, 2024**

**LBDTC Rally Trial
Sunday, July 7, 2024**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Pending

LBDTC Agility Trials August 24 & 25, 2024

**Lower Bucks Dog Training
Club, Inc. Agility Trials**

**Saturday & Sunday
August 24 & 25 2024**

Y2K9s Dog Sports Club
601 Davisville Rd, Suite 150
Willow Grove, PA 19090

Entries Open: July 9, 2024,
8:00am
Entries Close: August 6, 2024,
6:00pm

LBDTC Obedience January 1, 2025

**LBDTC Obedience Trial
Wednesday, January 1, 2025**

Up Front Dog Training Center
128 Arneystown-Hornerstown
Road
Allentown, NJ 08501

Pending

Happy Birthday

The Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Inc, would like to wish the following members a Happy Birthday!

March

Kim Cheshire-Kinney
Donna Czekner
Tammy Gibson
Mike King
Judy Matlack
Roger Matzke
Claire Amy Roberts
Jonathan Sparke
Clare Weikel
Donna Worthington

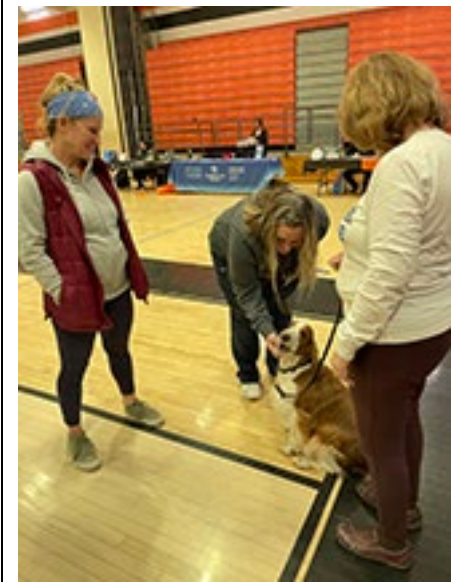


Public Domain Clipart from
[WPClipart Home Page](#)

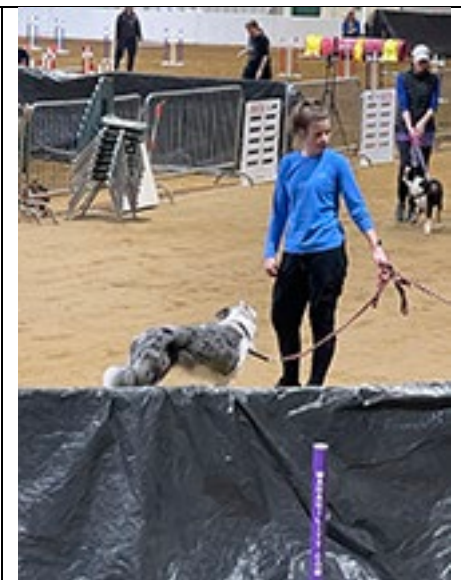
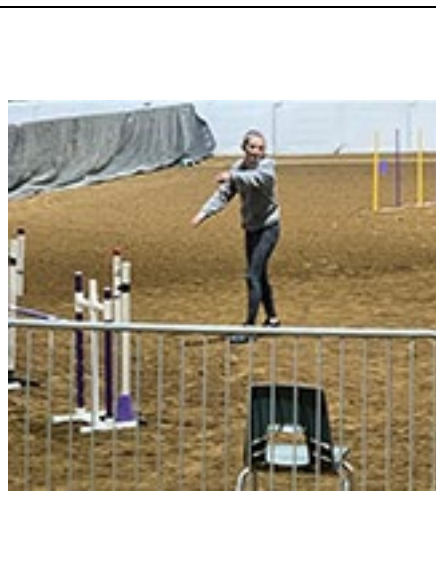
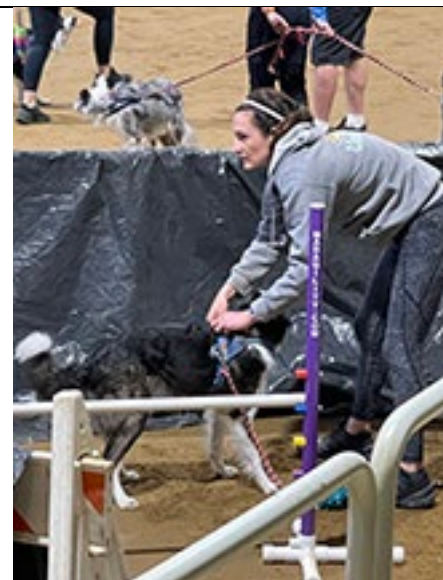
Pennsbury High School Career Night

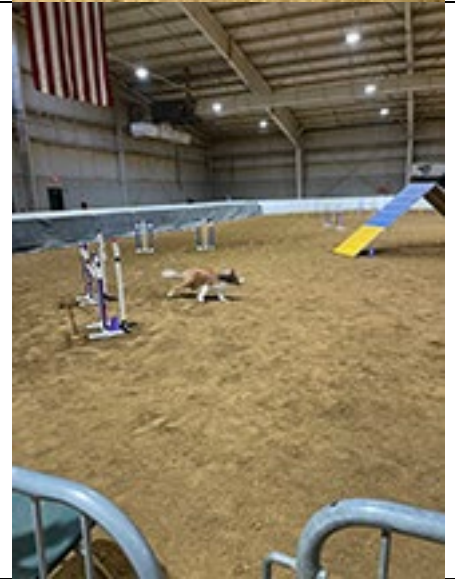
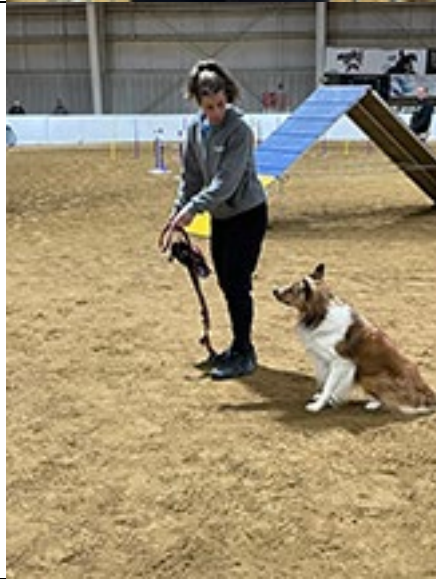
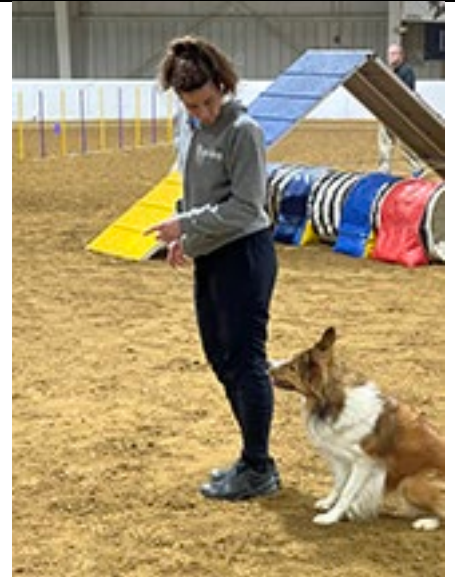
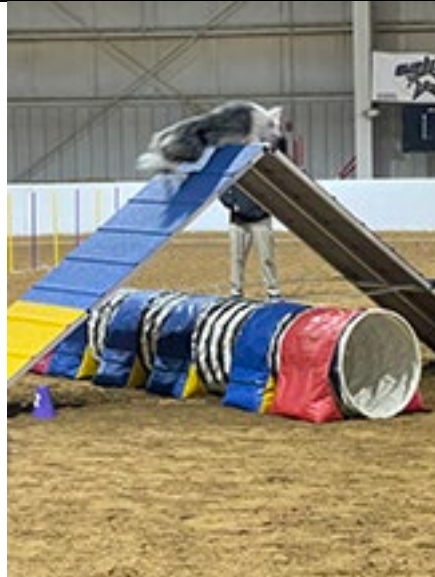
Photographs by Ken McKinney





LBDTC ASC Agility Trial February 22, 2024 Photographs by Ken McKinney





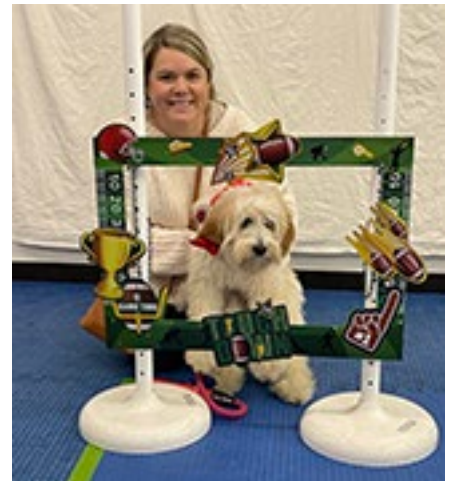
LBDTC

Puppy Bowl 2024 – Article from Helen Shaup

Puppy Bowl 2024

Flags were flying.
Football balls were flying.
And our puppies and dogs were flying.
This was the second year for the LBDTC Puppy Bowl.
Only this year, we included more classes. 2 Beginners, 1 Advanced,
1 agility and the Puppies Class.
Each dog scored a touchdown if they finished the obstacle course.
Two points were taken off if they missed one obstacle and 4 if they
missed two. If they missed all of them, they still got 2 points.
I'm proud to say all dogs got a touchdown.
But, that was not all. The dogs played games, like musical hoops,
find the treat under the tennis ball in cupcake pans, recall with owner
behind a sheet. It was a fun day for those flying dogs.
Thanks to all who helped decorate and to the referees, Helen and
Diane and of course the rufferee, Rookie.
May LBDTC have many more Puppy Bowls.

Puppy Bowl 2024 – Tuesday Beginners – Photos from Ken McKinney



Puppy Bowl 2024 – Tuesday Advanced – Photos from Ken McKinney



B.A.R.K.

IN
THE

2

4

0

2

PARK

SUNDAY,
APRIL 28

11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

WASHINGTON
MEMORIAL CHAPEL
IN
VALLEY FORGE PARK

Join us for an afternoon of pup-centric activities including B.A.R.K. Ranger training and induction.

Refreshments, prizes, and more.



VALLEY FORGE
PARK ALLIANCE

1777-1778

INQUIRIES TO
MEMBERSHIP@VFPARKALLIANCE.ORG



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

February 8, 2024

<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/u-s-congress-ask-lawmakers-oppose-harmful-radical-change-federal-breeder-regulations/>

Club officers and Legislative Liaisons: Please forward this alert to your club members.

A bill to allow the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to circumvent USDA animal experts in enforcing federal breeder licensing and potentially undermine the current hobby breeder exemptions for USDA licensing is gaining traction in Congress.

Your U.S. Senators and Representative need to hear from you TODAY! Let them know you are a constituent and **ask them to not sponsor or support H.R. 5041/S. 2555**. Scroll down for details and contact information.

About the Bill: [H.R.5041](#) / [Senate Bill 2555](#), the so-called “Better CARE for Animals Act”, circumvents enforcement of dog breeder licensing under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and shifts authority to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). *This shift would move oversight authority from an agency staffed by animal experts that focuses on improving animal husbandry; and instead place it with one with little or no animal expertise that focuses on violations as potential federal crimes.*

The bill would also empower the DOJ to file charges, seize animals and impose penalties regardless of whether USDA has determined or even alleged that there has been a violation of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Additionally, the measure could potentially undermine or remove current exemptions from licensing for small hobby breeders, thereby requiring them to be licensed and comply with USDA standards.

Your Representatives in the U.S. House and Senate need to hear opposition to this bill TODAY!

Visit AKC’s Legislative Action Center at www.akcgr.org and type your address in the “Find Your Elected Officials” box to find out who represents you and get their contact information. **Please call or email their offices today.**

Use the talking points below when reaching out to them.

Talking Points:

- Explain you are a constituent.
- Ask them to oppose H.R 5041/S. 2555, the so-called “Better Care for Animals Act”.
- Tell them it will do precisely the opposite of its name by removing crucial animal experts from the chain of animal welfare oversight. Removing subject matter expertise will undermine both animal care and enforcement of violations.
- DOJ does not have staff, veterinarians or experts in animal husbandry and behavior that are experienced in evaluating AWA compliance or enforcement.
- Rather than creating more efficiency, HR 5041/S 2555 create redundant and potentially conflicting authorities and jurisdictions. This will cause greater bureaucracy and expand the backlog of cases at the DOJ.
- Removal of exemptions for de minimis activity such as hobby breeders will also create greater strain on the limited resources of federal agencies charged with AWA oversight of professional breeders.
- The measure is unnecessary as the USDA already can and does seek assistance from DOJ when appropriate.
- The bills allow owners to be required to pay for the costs of boarding and care of seized animals while legal proceedings are pending, regardless of the outcome – with no provision for restitution.
- **Instead, suggest an alternate solution to address lawmakers’ animal care concerns:** Ask your members of Congress to instead support additional financial resources for USDA Animal Care enforcement, so they can appropriately enforce the requirements they already have.

For questions or more information, contact doglaw@akc.org, visit AKC’s Legislative Action Center www.akcgr.org or contact 919-816-3720.

Background: About Federal Dog Breeder Licensing and Oversight

Anyone who maintains more than 4 “breeding females” (a term that is undefined but is generally considered to mean an intact female) and transfers even one of the offspring “sight unseen” is subject to licensing under the AWA. “Breeding females” include any combination of cats, dogs, or other small pet mammals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, etc. ([Learn](#)

[more](#)). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which is staffed by thousands of animal experts, currently administers AWA licensing requirements. As part of their mission, which includes improving animal care and welfare, the agency's experts recognize performance-based animal care standards and provide expertise, training, and certification programs that benefit animals and those who care for them.



Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia
Allentown DTC
Anthracite Brittany Club
Berks County DTC
Berks County Kennel Club
Bernese Mt Dog Club of Watchung
Borzo Club of Delaware Valley
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia Inc.
Butler County Kennel Club
Butler Dog Training Association
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of
Delaware Valley
Central PA K9 Performance Club
Colonial Rottweiler Club
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County
Dauphin Dog Training Club
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club
Delaware Valley Havanese Club
Delaware Valley Hound Assoc.
Delaware Valley Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club
Devon Dog Show Association
Erie Kennel Club
Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club
Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Harrisburg Kennel Club
Hatboro Dog Club
Inter-State Shetland Sheepdog Club of PA
Kan-Do K9 Sports Association
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh
Lancaster Kennel Club
Lebanon County Kennel Club
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club
Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers
Lower Bucks Dog Training Club
Middle Atlantic St Bernard Club
Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg
PA Sled Dog Club
Penn Ridge Kennel Club
Penn Treaty Kennel Club
Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club
Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley
Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired
Pointer Club
Siberian Husky Club of Delaware Valley
South Eastern Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club
Tioga County Kennel Club
Tri State Dog Obedience Club
Western PA Dachshund Club
Williamsport Dog Training Club
York County Dog Training Club

Dogs are Barking About...

Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Volume I, 2024

Legislative Report

Current Legislation 11/16/2023

PA Dog Law Modernization, Act 18 of 2023

The PFDC has long supported increasing funding for the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. Since millions of dollars were taken out of the Dog Law Restricted Account to balance the General Fund budget in 2009, the BDLE has been running in the red and needing infusions of tax dollars to stay in operation. The increases in individual license fees and kennel license fees are moderate, especially considering it has been decades since they were last changed.

Since we were able to get amendments to both SB746 and HB1322 to protect the Health Certificate exemption for dogs coming into the Commonwealth for show, trials and other competitions, we supported the Bill and encouraged members of our member organizations to contact their state Senators and Representatives in Harrisburg to support them.

Some welcome changes include:

- Individual dog licenses will no longer cost more for unaltered dogs.
- The PA Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement will be required to develop a web site to allow dog owners to purchase licenses online. We believe this will greatly increase individual dog licensing compliance.
- Future dog license and kennel license fees will be a matter of regulation. It will not be necessary to pass a Bill to change them going forward. However, we will still have a say with the PA Regulatory Review Board when new rates are requested, and Legislators have the ability to stop regulatory changes with a simple majority vote.
- The threshold for licensing a puppy will remain at 12 weeks *or when ownership of the puppy is transferred to anyone*. Sellers will be required to provide licensing paperwork to the buyers, but the responsibility will be on the buyers to obtain the license.

Some items of concern include:

- 2 week quarantine for dogs imported to the state permanently. This does not include dogs coming to PA for shows, trials, tests and other competitive events.
- Change from a health certificate to a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
- Increase in penalties for those found to be operating a kennel without a license, to a class 3 misdemeanor, which could carry jail time. For those who may inadvertently exceed the 26 dogs "handled" in a year, because of the vagueness of that definition, we see this penalty as excessive.

Pennsylvania Senate Bills

- **SB82** – License fee exemptions for service dogs used by fire dept, sheriff, rescue, medical emergency, municipal or state police. Declares dogs as personal property. **SUPPORT**

Pennsylvania Senate Bills (continued)

- **SB357** – Constitutional Carry of a Firearm. Would refer to hunting and sporting groups **SUPPORT**
- **SB624** – Lost Dog Hotline and Lost Dog Registry within the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. The question is funding sources given current shortfalls at the BDLE. **SUPPORT**
- **SB658** (Mastriano) – Combating Cruel Testing on Dogs and Cats. We question the need for this legislation because most institutions of higher education have ethics review boards that double check the need for the use of animals in scientific experimentation. We recognize the need for such use in both medical and veterinary science and do not support an out-right ban. **Neutral**
- Dogs used in medical and veterinary research. Generally speaking, we see the need for research using animal subjects, but obviously they need to be handled as humanely as possible. Most research facilities, both academic and private, have ethics review boards to evaluate the need for animal subjects. We believe most of those do a good job, so we question the need for these Bills. **NEUTRAL**
 - ◇ **SB701** – Regulating kennels that produce dogs for research
 - ◇ **SB702** – Amend Dog Law regarding research kennels
 - ◇ **SB703** – Amend Cruelty Laws regarding research kennels
- **SB785** (Yaw) – Animal Advisory Board. This board shall review existing laws and regulations in this Commonwealth related to keeping and handling of animals and make recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes. The board shall meet at least every two years, or as they see fit, to fulfill the duties under this act. The board shall develop an initial report making certain recommendations or regulatory changes that would need brought before the General Assembly.
 - ◇ This board will consist of the following:
 - » The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee.
 - » One member who is a resident of this Commonwealth from each of the following:
 - The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.
 - The College of Agricultural Sciences of The Pennsylvania State University.
 - The American Kennel Club.
 - The Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania.
 - The Northeast Beagle Gundog Federation.
 - The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
 - The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.
 - PennAg Industries Association.
 - The Pennsylvania State Grange.
 - The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania.
 - The Office of Attorney General.
 - The Pennsylvania State Police.
 - The Pet Advocacy Network.
 - » Two members who are residents of this Commonwealth from each of the following:
 - The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, at least one of whom represents a licensed kennel.
 - The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association.

The Legislative Committee of the PFDC supports Senator Yaw in his efforts and appreciates the opportunity of two (2) seats at the table. Should this bill pass and the Advisory Board becomes a reality, we are well aware that this will be a battleground of animal rights vs animal welfare. However, we are prepared for the challenge of reviewing those existing bills that need amended and new bills that require scrutiny. This will be our opportunity to educate legislators by voicing our needs and positions regarding current and future legislation. We will make every effort to align our positions with like-minded animal welfare members of the board and continue to protect our member clubs, their members, breeders and their dogs.
- **SB979** (Culver) – Public Information Regarding Bio-Security. This proposal would require retailers of livestock and pet food to post notices of “dangerous transmissible diseases”. **Support**

Pennsylvania House Bills

- **HB86** – Legislation to allow any 501c3 or 501c6 organization to sell liquor for fundraising purposes. **Neutral**
- **HB139** – Taking the Judiciary out of Dog Law – under current law, all fines, fees and costs collected are deposited into the Judicial System account. The transfers include amounts imposed under Act 225 – AKA – Dog Law – that would be used to fund the operations of the Dept of Ag, which oversees Dog Law Enforcement. This legislation addresses this issue by exempting fines, fees and costs under the Dog Law from being transferred to the Judicial Computer System. Accounts for approximately 200K per year. **SUPPORT**
- **HB222** – Cruelty to Animals – violation causing bodily harm due to cropping, trimming or cutting off the whole or part of the ear or ears of the animal by a person who is not a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. **SUPPORT**
 - ◇ 1st offense – misdemeanor of the 2nd degree
 - ◇ 2nd offense – misdemeanor of the 1st degree
- **HB449** – Kidnapping of Animals – Establishes tough penalties for intentionally selling or taking of any dog, cat, equine, swine, cattle – any animal – to resell to puppy mills, research facilities or animal Fighters. **Neutral** pending clarification.
- **HB508** – Banning of cat declawing – specifically refers to only cats; however, it refers to “animal mutilation,” which we all should know that the AR groups refer to dewclaw removal, cropping and docking as “mutilation.” This is a private decision between the owner and their vet. (Should this bill pass, their next step would be dogs.) **OPPOSE**
- **HB526** – Requires pet shops to provide all health, medical and breeder licensing numbers – “keeping breeders honest” **SUPPORT**
- **HB529** – Animal Cruelty – Transporting dogs – supported by the American Humane Society – prohibits transporting of dogs unrestrained in truck beds or car roofs. This proposal will “not apply to a dog transported in a secured insulated cage or container which is designed to facilitate the safe transportation of a dog and will prevent the dog from being exposed to outside weather conditions and from falling, jumping or being thrown from the vehicle.” **SUPPORT**
- **HB530** – Animal cruelty – Restriction of Animal Ownership – all “convicted” abusers prohibited from owning, possessing, controlling or working with animals for at least 2 years – also requires abusers to participate in violence prevention counseling. *NOTE: Refers to Libre’s Law (Act10) – Over 25,000 Animal abuse cases have been filed statewide – 54% for neglect. **OPPOSE**
- **HB549** – All Dogs Equal – All Dogs in all kennels should be held to the same State licensed standard that requires specific construction, heating, cooling, exercise, etc. *NOTE – Rescue/rehomers are generally not State licensed. This bill would include those groups. **SUPPORT**
- **HB607** – Introduces legislation to permit the Attorney General to investigate and institute criminal proceedings for a felony offense regarding animal cruelty to animals. This would permit the assistance of the Attorney General in prosecuting animal cruelty cases in counties which have little experience in doing so. *NOTE – The Attorney General’s office is in partnership with the H\$U\$. **OPPOSE**
- **HB689** – Applies to crimes and offenses relating to sexual intercourse with an animal. *NOTE – We read this bill specifically searching for AI use. In another state where a similar proposal was introduced, it included artificial insemination as a sexual offense. That was not listed in this bill, so we are concerned about its intent. We want Representative Jordan Harris to clarify the proposal’s intent on that topic. **NEUTRAL**
- **HB1052** – Exempting Detection Dogs from licensing. **SUPPORT**
- **HB1099** – Defend the Flock. On the surface, this Bill is about poultry flocks. However, the definitions in it concern us because they could be interpreted to apply to all domestic animals. We are currently **NEUTRAL** but will continue to monitor it.
- **HB1108** (Kulik) – Animals in Divorce Cases. This Bill has a very problematic definition of domestic animals and some assertions about pets as property that worry us. **Oppose** as written pending clarification.
- **HB1210** (Sappey/Mihalek) – Animal Abuse in Domestic Violence Situations. This is a “we are doing something about this horrible problem” proposal that is actually unnecessary because such abuse is already illegal under Humane Laws. **Do Not Support** because of redundancy.
- **HB1661** (Metzgar) – Criminalizing illicit possession of xylazine, with veterinary use exemptions. This proposal seeks to criminalize the illicit use of xylazine by people for recreation, while keeping the necessary sedative available to veterinarians. **Support**

Pennsylvania Senate Resolutions

- **SR57** – Sen. Mastriano, Designate March 13, 2023 as “K9 Veterans and Service Day” in PA. “Canine services include dogs and their handlers, trainers and other helpers involved in police services, drug enforcement, customs, border patrol, secret service, military, and many other capacities. In my view they have earned our thanks for their efforts to protect us all.” **SUPPORT**

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

- **HR1624 – Puppy Protection Act.** This H\$U\$-backed proposal is an incremental approach to bringing everything we do under Federal oversight. It is their common one-size-fits-all approach that mandates practices down to a minute level. The mandates include...

Prohibiting the breeding of a female dog:

- Unless pre-screened by a veterinarian
- Based arbitrarily on the age and size of the dog.
- If it would produce more than two litters in an 18-month period.

Additional arbitrary requirements include but are not limited to:

- Mandated unfettered access from dogs’ primary enclosures to an outdoor exercise area large enough that it “allows dogs to extend to full stride.” This would create a potentially dangerous environment for multiple dogs.
- Mandated annual dental exams.
- Mandated indoor space sufficient to allow the tallest dog in an enclosure to stand on his or her hind legs without touching the roof of the enclosure. For family dogs that live in their owner’s homes, the primary enclosure may be considered the dog’s sleeping crate.
- Mandated pre-breeding screenings. No specific details are provided for what the screening would involve or who would make these decisions.
- Prohibition on the keeping of dogs in enclosures above 85°F or below 45°F, regardless of breed or acclimation needs for dogs that hunt, sled, detect explosives, or do other work and thrive in cooler temperatures, or that must be acclimated to cooler or warmer temperatures for their safety.
- Completely solid flooring, despite scientific recognition that multiple types of high-quality flooring, including engineered slatted flooring, is beneficial in certain types of kennels and with certain breeds.
<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/us-congress-proposed-breeder-restrictions-impact-tell-congress-oppose>
The PFDC believes humane legislation and kennel regulation belong at the state level. **OPPOSE HR1624**
- **HR1788 Include Livestock and Poultry in the AWA (Goldies Bill)** – more incrementalism on the part of those who are opposed to any animal ownership, including our dogs. They use the phrase “puppy mills” in reference to USDA licensed kennels, which they are not. It tries to define “suffering” as almost anything short of pushing them around in a baby carriage. The proponents are attempting to include the proposal in the current Farm Bill. **OPPOSE**

Supreme Court ruling on California Pork Import regulations, and the EATS proposal

On the surface, it seems this has nothing to do with dogs or us. Unfortunately, that is not true. The ruling carries a precedence that is still being evaluated. It could lead to California’s exceedingly strict animal laws being applied to breeders in the rest of the country. Everyone should pay attention to this developing story.

In response to this ruling, Congress has introduced the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Bill (H.R. 4417/S. 2019). This would prevent animal-related Bills passed in one State from affecting the Laws and Regulations of others. It was proposed as a way to address livestock regulations in California that are creating a burden for producers in other states. We see how this could be applied to breeders and puppies being shipped between states. **SUPPORT**

New Hampshire HB1102 is a Step in the Wrong Direction for All Dogs in All States

January 9, 2024

One thing is perfectly clear with regards to this proposal: this is only the first step. Today it is only New Hampshire, and the condition is only Brachycephalic. Make no mistake, proponents of this proposal, which started in Europe, will not stop until they have a laundry list of conditions, in a lot of States. We are quite sure; their ultimate goal is to make it Federal Law.

A major problem with this proposal is who decides what breeds are brachycephalic. Will it be politicians who have little knowledge of animal husbandry, agenda-driven, unelected bureaucrats or veterinary academics who may also be driven by a radical agenda?

Next question would be are all members of that breed then considered to be suffering from the condition, or are individuals evaluated? Clearly there members of breeds currently labeled brachycephalic that compete at a high level in agility, Fast CAT and other strenuous sports successfully. How can this one-size-fits-all proposal legitimately say those animals are suffering?

We believe consumer education is the best way to address any excesses that lead to animals suffering. Consumer protection proposals like the PA Dog Purchaser Protection Act (Puppy Lemon Law) are far more effective than one-size-fits-all proposals like New Hampshire's HB1102.

We urge all members of all our member clubs to watch for similar proposals, even at a local level. Even if your favorite breed is not brachycephalic, think about what conditions are inherent in them that could be used to regulate or eliminate their breeding should this type of legislation get a foot-hold. Please let us at the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs know as soon as possible if you hear of any similar proposals anywhere, even in other States.

Darin Cox
President
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs

Upcoming Events

- Feb 22 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, Gloucester Co Dream Park, Swedesboro, NJ
- Feb 24 – Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC sanctioned ‘B’ Match, Frenchtown, NJ
- Feb 24-25 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, C-WAGs Obedience, Rally, Scentwork, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Feb 25 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Scent Work Seminar with Chris Eicher, DDTC training center
- Mar 1-2 – Harrisburg Kennel Club, Scent Work Trials, St. Andrews in the Valley, Harrisburg, PA
- Mar 2-3 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Agility, Dandy Dog training center, Bloersville, PA
- Mar 8-10 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Seminar with Britney Imhoff, DDTC training center
- Mar 9-10 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Show, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Mar 16 – Dachshund Fanciers Assoc of Berks Co, Specialty, Celtic Cluster, York, PA
- Mar 17 – Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Specialty, Celtic Cluster, York, PA
- Mar 22 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva, DDTC training center
- Mar 23 – Tri-State Dog Obedience Club, UKC Obedience, Shohola, PA
- Mar 23-24 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Nosework, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Mar 30-31 – Dachshund Fanciers Assoc of Berks Co, Field Trial, Wyoming Valley Beagle Club, Hunlock Creek, PA
- April 10-14 – Blue & Gray Cluster AKC Shows, PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA
- April 12-13 Keystone English Springer Spaniel Clubs, Specialty at Blue-Gray Cluster honoring former President Thomas Faust, Harrisburg, PA
- April 12-14 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, In the Net, Palmyra, PA
- April 13-14 – Grtr Val Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC lure coursing, Somerset Park, Somerset, NJ
- April 13-14 – Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Hunt Test, Freeland KC, Weatherly, PA
- April 19 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva, DDTC training center
- April 19-21 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Fast CAT, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- April 20 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Obedience, Upfront Farm, Allentown, NJ
- Apr 20-21 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Rally & Obedience, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- April 21 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Rally, Upfront Farm, Allentown, NJ
- April 28 – Tri-State Dog Obedience Club, UKC Nosework, Shohola, PA
- May 4 – Grtr Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Regional Specialty, Bucks Co KC show, Trenton, NJ
- May 10 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva

Upcoming Events, Continued

- May 16-19 – Harrisburg KC/Chambersburg Area KC, Fast CAT, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, PA
- May 19 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, United Dog, Huntingdon Valley, PA
- May 20-21 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, Bella Vista training center, Lewisberry, PA
- June 7-9 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, United Dog, Huntingdon Valley, PA
- June 15-16 – Grtr Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC Fast CAT, Somerset Park, Somerset, NJ
- June 21-22 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Obedience, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- June 23 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Rally, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- June 28 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva
- July 28 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Scent Work, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- August 6 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, Bella Vista training center, Lewisberry, PA
- August 24-25 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, Y2K9 Sports Club, Willow Grove, PA
- August 30-31 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Obedience, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- September 1 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Rally, DDRC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- September 13-15 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Britney Imhoff
- September 20-22 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Fast CAT, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- September 21-22 – Grtr Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC lure coursing, location to be determined
- September 21-22 – Dachshund Fanciers Assoc of Berks Co, Earth Dog Tests
- October 13 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Tracking, Betsy Keen farm, Carlisle, PA
- October 13 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Scent Work, Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg, PA
- October 17-20 – Chambersburg Area KC/Harrisburg KC, Fast CAT, Oakside Comm Park, Biglerville, PA
- October 18-20 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, In the Net, Palmyra, PA
- November 15-16 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Obedience, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- November 17 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Rally, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA

Board Member Profile:

Lorraine Simmons

I have been showing dogs for 40+ years. I started with Great Danes in 1976. Dachshunds became part of my life in 1980. I have owned smooths, longs, standards and mini over the years. I participate in Conformation, Field Trials, Earth dog, Obedience, and Rally. There are five generations of Dual Champions in my "Stardox" line. I have dogs in my line that have BISS, ROMX, ROMO, and a #1 DCA field dog.

I owned and operated a boarding and grooming kennel for twenty-seven years. At the kennel and at all breed clubs, I taught Conformation handling classes to adults and juniors. I am currently teaching show handling classes at Fieldwood dog training center. I am a conformation judge for Dachshunds & Great Danes as well as a Dachshund field judge. In this capacity I strive to achieve fairness and integrity. I share my love of Dachshunds with my husband David.

Club Memberships, Positions and Committees:

- **Dachshund Club of America:** Member 30 years, former (DCA Region 6 Chair) - 3 years, former (DCA National Region Chair) -2 years.
- **Dachshund Club Of New Jersey:** Member 32 years, Current board member, past President (8 years). As a working committee member, I secure the grounds, and judges for DCNJ Field trials.
- **Dachshund Fanciers Association of Berks County:** Member, 10 years. (Chair - conformation Judges selection committee), Chair- (By Laws committee). Field Trial committee chair. I secure the judges and grounds for DFABC field trials.
- **Great Dane Club of America** - Member 30 years.
- **Great Dane Club of PA.:** 10 years, former working member.
- **New Brunswick Kennel Club NJ:** Member 22 years. Currently, (Show Catalog Advertising Chair).
- **DCA 2021 National:** Earth Dog Committee- (coordinated the food and grounds on my property for hosting the National Earth Dog). Field Trial Committee- (coordinated the meals and securing the grounds for the National Field Trial).
- It was an honor to be elected and to Judge Long Hair Dachshunds at the Dachshund Club of America National Show in 2023.

President: Darin Cox President@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org 717-877-4336

First Vice President: Edith Rysdyk

Second Vice President (Legislative Chair): Linda Witouski Treasurer: Kim Blyler Secretary: Bettina Sterling

Board Members: Danna Deimler, Cheryl Demarkis, Melanie Eng, Robin Piorun,

Lorraine Simmons, Jonathan Stanley, and Judy Swanson

Editing and Layout: Marguerite Plank

<http://PAFederationOfDogClubs.org>



To: Senator John Fetterman

From: PA Federation of Dog Clubs

Re: S.2555 “Better Care of Animals” Bill

Date: February 22, 2024

Senator Fetterman,

The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs and its many member organizations across the Commonwealth are very concerned about the “Better Care of Animals” proposal currently under consideration in Congress. We do not believe the proposal will have the effect its name implies, but will, in fact, achieve the opposite result.

Removing subject matter experts from the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act is inefficient and counter productive. Inspectors at the Department of Agriculture have spent decades learning animal husbandry practices at a practical level, instead of a political one. The Department of Justice on the other hand has shown itself to be strongly affected by the political winds on the day. We know that some vocal activists make a living out of vilifying traditional agricultural practices and we are sure those will be the voices heard by lawyers at the Department of Justice. Hopefully, legal representatives of farmers will be able to show this in court, but that will take significant financial resources and time out of the fields for our farmers. This undoubtedly have the effect of driving up food and other costs even faster than they are today.

The way S.2555 is written, it will cause redundancy between the Departments of Agriculture and Justice, wasting taxpayer dollars. The Department of Agriculture already requests DOJ assistance as necessary.

Another concern for us is the implication in the proposal that hobby breeders be treated the same as professional breeders. This will cause a greater caseload strain and reduce the effectiveness of current inspections, regardless of which Department is conducting them. This strikes us as part of a radical animal activist agenda to end hobby breeding, showing, trialing and other family friendly activities Americans enjoy with their animals. Seizing animals and forcing owners to pay for boarding prior to their day in court, and not allowing for refund of those fees should they be acquitted is an Unconstitutional seizure of property without due process.

We would much rather see Congress increase support for USDA/APHIS inspection activities in support of the Animal Welfare Act as it stands today.