

Toxic By Barbara Axel

Our first dachshund puppy was acquired the day after we got married. We newlyweds had wanted this breed for our own from the time we were charmed several months earlier by a retail store's mascot, a well behaved smooth dachshund who acted like the Will Rogers of dogdom.

Initially we knew nothing of the responsibilities of owning a pet, but we followed the advice of our veterinarian, well intentioned dog-owning friends, and dog books galore. Later we found that a number of authors we did read were actually experts on our breed. With more luck and pluck than actual expertise we managed to raise a good canine. We doted on this little being who grew up to be a healthy, curious, smart, energetic dog who never tired of inventing and playing games with anyone he could entice to join him. At gatherings when others would show photos of their children and brag, out would come our own photos of.....Choo-Choo the dachshund,.....and we in turn would tell of our pup's intelligence and wonderful deeds, much to the annoyance (or amusement) of the surrounding crowd.



So life was grand and we would never have expected that it would suddenly take a dramatic turn for the worse.

One sunny and mild Sunday afternoon while I was away my husband took Choo-Choo for a drive to view a model home. Once at their destination Choo-Choo played on the front lawn and curbed himself. My husband then toured the house with the dachshund in his arms. By the time I returned home early that

evening our pup had started vomiting. We called his veterinarian who phoned a prescription in to the only drugstore that was open. We gave the medication to Choo-Choo, but it did not have any effect. Our veterinarian's office was now closed. The pup grew worse and worse. Eventually he became very weak and started bleeding from his mouth and rectum. We dialed every listed veterinarian in two counties, hoping someone would answer our call for help. Everything seemed to be locked up tight that Sunday night. We were sure our dog was dying as we frantically took turns dialing the phone. Finally we found a veterinary hospital that was open. We wrapped our bleeding dog in layers of soft blankets and raced to their hospital in the by now wee hours of early Monday morning. We had lost all hope by this time.

The good doctors however, were prepared for our emergency. They met us at the door, and initiated treatment immediately. From our description they knew he had been poisoned. Soon we were told to go home, but they had hopes that Choo-Choo would survive. Choo-Choo was in the hospital for a week recovering till they took him off intravenous medications and taught him to eat once more. I spent the week cleaning semi-dried blood from the floors of our three room apartment, gagging at the smell. How could a small dog lose that much blood and survive? But survive he did, thanks to the expertise of those skilled veterinarians. We did plenty of soul searching, but were at a loss to identify the poison he had ingested for he was never out of our sight.

A short time later we visited the same model house once more. Immediately we identified the poison. It was a chemical fertilizer. The lawn had obviously recently been fertilized, for now tell-tale zebra stripes of lighter grass appeared that had been missed when the fertilizer had originally been applied.

We actually bought that very house, but now were armed with knowledge of organic gardening and a less toxic way of tending the earth. Choo-Choo grew up to accompany us through more than the first decade of our married lives and the addition of two children to our family. But for the quick and expert action of knowledgeable veterinarians this story would have had a tragic ending.

Since then we have owned many generations of dachshunds, but that incident made us aware poisons abound in the most innocent-seeming environments. We learned from our mistake and did not repeat it.

We listened to other dog owners and continued reading.

We learned about not exposing dogs and children's bare feet to pressure treated decks and timbered retaining walls. We don't use cocoa mulch.

We brought our pets indoors if a neighbor was spraying his landscape. And we politely inquired what substance was being sprayed. The wind can carry the airborne toxins to your yard too. After watching the heavy spraying that takes place regularly on manicured grass of sod farms or golf courses we decided both were off bounds for exercising or training for tracking titles. Friends' experiences taught us that some indoor/outdoor carpeting is toxic to pets. And the list grows.

For additional pertinent information on the topic look below for the articles sent to us by MaryAnne Teal <http://www.commondreams.org/news2008/0417-03.htm>

Be sure to look at the actual study...

<http://www.ewg.org/reports/pets>

And for more timely hints do look up the article titled Summer Pet Care on the NCRAOA website.

Traveling with our Pets

Many of us consider our pets valued family members these days. We look to travel with them, including at this busy holiday time. There are many hotels that welcome our well behaved pets; as well as, great vacation get away spots, that allow pets to accompany their traveling owners.

Travel agencies can be of great help in finding the perfect vacation spot for you and your family including your pets. There is a great book, "Pets Welcome" that lists locations across the country that welcome our pets. Two fantastic mountain locations within 3 hours travel to the RTP to keep in mind are Eagle's Nest in the Shenandoah Valley of North Carolina and Indian Creek Cabins in Indian Valley, Virginia. These two locations have wonderful hiking trails to enjoy with your canine friends and also Indian Creek Cabins welcomes well behaved feline friends to travel with their owners.

Please keep in mind some very important points when traveling with pets no matter what season:

- Always make sure your dog has a sturdy collar with a current tag containing your name, address, and phone number, also it is a good idea to have a collar and id tag on cats that are traveling with you. Have your pets microchipped for an extra level of safety.
- Have your pets travel in a kennel while in your car. It's safer for you AND it's safer for them. It also minimizes the risk of them exiting the vehicle before you are ready.
- Fill water bottles with your own tap water and freeze them. Not only will they keep your cooler colder, you can then tie one to the side of your pet's crate - upside down, and allow it to drip into his bowl for a consistent supply of cold water. This also helps to further reduce your pet from drinking water that may not agree with its tummy.
- When stopping at a rest area - BE AWARE. Look for any people acting strangely and do not get out if ANYTHING feels "funny". Watch for other pet owners letting their dogs' off leash - as they can be aggressive. Do not encourage any interaction. Pay close attention to make sure your dog does not eat anything on the ground.
- When at a picnic or other family gathering, do not allow your pets to be fed "scraps". Keep a close eye on them and do not assume that everyone will know what is good or bad for your pet - fatty meats, chicken bones, and a host of other cookout items can be deadly to your pet - either by damaging their bowels or causing pancreatitis. Bring dog treats from home and your frozen water.
- Take your pet's food with you to make sure it is eating the food it is accustomed to eating and this will help to reduce the chances of upset tummies while traveling.
- And - we're still amazed that some people don't know this - NEVER, EVER, EVER leave your pet in a car during warm weather- it's a DEADLY mistake.
- Take your pet's bowls with you when traveling to make sure your pet has food and water dishes that are familiar as some pets are particular.
- Putting a temporary id tag or tape on your pet's id tag with the vacation information can be of help.
- For dogs that get motion sickness while traveling there is a new drug called Cerenia that you can speak with your veterinarian about.

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Alliance Launches YouTube Videos

Partners with USDA Corporate Challenge

July 1, 2008 - The Animal Agriculture Alliance launched two videos on YouTube, a popular website demonstrating great impact on today's social culture, where almost anyone can share videos. The first Alliance video focuses on the importance of moderation and balance in making dietary choices. It suggests talking to a dietitian or nutritionist about a balanced diet and warns against adopting diets based on political causes or trends. The second video points out that over 90% of America's farms and ranches are family-owned. It also explains farmers and ranchers' commitment to their animals, their land and their community.

"The Alliance is excited to have been selected as a USDA partner in this campaign and we are pleased to be able to offer these videos to help the public - especially youths and young adults - make responsible dietary choices and better understand American farmers' and ranchers' commitment to people, animals and the environment," said Kay Johnson Smith, Executive Vice President of the Animal Agriculture Alliance. "We are grateful to all those who contributed their time and money towards this project."

The Alliance's YouTube Videos can be seen on its website at www.animalagalliance.org.

NAIS: "Voluntary" System Uses Force

The House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee's markup bill would force the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to purchase meat for the National School Lunch Program only from sources that are registered in the controversial National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro (Conn.-3), chairwoman of the House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, introduced the markup. In her press release, DeLauro states:

We will also strengthen Animal ID and the National School Lunch Program including language to provide market-based incentives to strengthen both the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and the National School Lunch Program. This proposal would increase participation in the animal ID program."

Beginning with the 2010 school year (that starts in July 2009), the bill includes language that requires USDA to purchase for the School Lunch Program meat products that are derived from livestock premises registered with National Animal Identification System."

Importantly, the bill's purchasing requirements will not take effect until July 2009, the start of the next school year and over a year from now. This will provide time for schools, food vendors, and the livestock industry to prepare the upcoming higher standards."

The bill provides a total NAIS funding level of \$14.5 million or about \$4.8 million above 2008. Congress has provided \$128 million to date in good faith to implement NAIS. Unfortunately, APHIS's delivery has been less than stellar. Out of 1.4 million livestock premises, APHIS has only registered to date about 469,000 premises. At APHIS's current rate of enrolling about 1,500 premises per week, it will take APHIS another 13 years to achieve its goal of 100 percent registration.

R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America wrote to Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro requesting that this language be withdrawn from the bill, as R-CALF USA believes keeping that measure “would cause harm to the financial viability of our nation’s family farmers and ranchers without addressing the source of food safety problems.”

According to R-CALF any trace-back capability contemplated by the current NAIS program effectively ends upon the death or slaughter of live cattle – there is no mechanism in place to trace-forward the resulting beef from an NAIS-participating animal. U.S. farmers and ranchers already are operating on extremely tight margins due to the present economic cost/price squeeze, and there have been no studies to determine if the NAIS is economically feasible for family farmers and ranchers. For example, the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) predicts that economic returns to farmers and ranchers who own mother cows and who sell calves will fall to a negative \$17.62 per cow in 2009, and returns will continue to remain negative for the ensuing seven years, hitting a low of a negative \$51.87 per cow in 2012. Thus, the imposition of the cost for NAIS may well be financially untenable for U.S. family farmers and ranchers.

The Ranch and Farm Freedom Alliance provides further information on many far-from-voluntary situations. The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) proposed mandatory regulations, and only allowed them to lapse due to the grassroots outcry. Even after the TAHC tabled the proposed regulations, the Texas Extension Service continued to tell people that the program was mandatory. There have been numerous reports that people signed up for premises registration only because they were told it was mandatory and there would be a fee if they did not do it now, or that their child could not participate in 4H if they did not register.

And the non-voluntary methods of increasing participation in NAIS appear to be limited only by the agencies’ imaginations. For example, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture has made premises registration in NAIS a requirement for getting various forms of farm assistance. Some states, including New York, have “data mined” existing databases, and enrolled people in the NAIS database without the individuals’ knowledge or consent. USDA has specifically stated that it will fund this type of data mining.

Other states are requiring people to enroll in NAIS in order to comply with existing disease control programs; for example, Michigan has used its existing tuberculosis program to enroll cattle owners in the NAIS database without their consent and require that all cattle have an RFID tag by March 2007. Again, the USDA has specifically approved of this type of tactic, noting that “the success of the premises registration component would be achieved through the participation of producers in longstanding disease management programs and compliance with interstate movement regulations.” Is that truly voluntary?

Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance President Judith McGeary stated in a recent press release, “With over a dozen state bills introduced to reject a mandatory NAIS, and four states having adopted such bills, Congress still has not gotten the message that farmers are rejecting their heavy handed tactics under the false pretense of food safety.”

For further information on NAIS:

Ranch and Farm Freedom Alliance <http://farmandranchfreedom.org/content/>

R-CALF USA <http://www.r-calfusa.com/>

Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund (FTCLDF) <http://www.ftclfd.org/>

All the Rage: Feline Agility

July 2008 By Joan Hustace Walker

Agility events are now being offered at many cat shows — and all you need is a willing cat and some training to participate.

The large, bobtailed cat was racing through the agility course so quickly that his owner could barely keep up to direct him. Running up and down ramps, leaping through a suspended hoop, darting in and out of weave poles, the pixie-bob had *speed*. And then, the cat stopped. He was at the last jump and his owner wasn't. "He looked up at her and seemed to say, 'You want me to jump through this, right?'" recounts Susan Lee, a breeder of Havana [IMGCAP(1)]browns and Maine coon cats in Okemos, Michigan. The cat must have received the signal he was waiting for, because he sailed over the last jump — still well before his handler had caught up with him.

Agility, which has been tremendously popular with dogs since the 1980s, is beginning to catch on with cat owners. The first exhibitions of agility for cats were held in 2003 by the International Cat Agility Tournaments (ICAT). Within a year, member clubs of The International Cat Association (TICA) were adding ICAT agility competitions to their show lists. Today, cat agility competitions can be found at both TICA and Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. (CFA) shows — complete with awards for adult cats, kittens and junior handlers, as well as opportunities to garner placement points toward several different levels of agility titles.

In a cat agility competition, the goal is to go through a course of six to 14 obstacles (depending on the class) with the fastest time and fewest faults possible. Faults include such things as a cat refusing to go through a tunnel, scooting under instead of over an obstacle or knocking a pole down from a bar jump. To help keep the cats and kittens on track, the course is set up in an area measuring anywhere from 400 to 1,200 square feet, depending on the limitations of the show hall. The ring perimeter is fenced (four to six feet high) with a lightweight screen or mesh and PVC piping.

Cat agility is always a crowd pleaser, relates Ms. Lee, who is a TICA judge as well as an official for (and participant in) cat agility events. Cats can be unpredictable, much to the amusement of the crowd, and they can also be spectacular: A young Bengal kitten that excelled at agility truly looked like a running waterfall of colors as he navigated his way effortlessly through an advanced course. And then there are those felines that are just *cute*. In particular, Ms. Lee recounts the story of a pair of kittens going through an agility course that absolutely charmed judges, participants and the audience alike. "The two little cream Persian kittens running together [through the course] were precious," she relates, adding that what made the kittens' performance that much more captivating was the fact that they were working the course together: "The more outgoing one showed the shyer one what to do," she says.

Training for Agility

To get started in feline agility, you don't need experience, but you will need a willing cat (no need for a registered show cat; just your plain, lovable "housecat" is fine!), a lure and a little patience. Deb Decker, owner of Siddhis Havana Browns in Arlington, Texas, explains that she likes to start cats and kittens with a long teaser toy: "One that you can drag," she says. "First you tap on the obstacle with the teaser. Then go to the other side [of the obstacle] and drag the toy to get the cat to go through it." It doesn't take long for most cats to figure out what you're asking for. "They'll get to the point that they'll know what you want them to do," says Ms. Decker. "You'll put them down and you just start running and pointing at the obstacles."

Though you would think that the fastest and most athletic cats [IMGCAP(2)] would reign supreme in this sport, this isn't always the case, says Pat Harbert, owner of OhMy Abyssinians, Bengals and Highlanders in Choctaw, Oklahoma. "The most active cats are not always the best. My Abyssinians are the fastest by far but distract easily and may go in the opposite direction just as fast if something catches their attention," she says.

The cats that do the best in agility don't belong to any particular breed, but they do seem to share a similar quality: they are involved with their owners. "Cats that have a strong bond with their owners tend to do better," says Ms. Harbert.

Getting Started

A beginner's agility set intended for small or toy-breed dogs is often perfect for a cat as well. Sets usually include weave poles, a set of two jumps, a hoop jump and a tunnel for less than \$100. Or you can get creative and use household items to make your own home course. "I set up obstacles at home," confides Ms. Harbert. "I use steps, jumps from one chair or footstool to another, weaving in and out of gallon jugs of water, going through a child's play tunnel and using a ladder [laid down] on the floor."

Teaching your cat or kitten to follow the lure or teaser and practicing different obstacles at home can help prepare him for competition. It's perfectly okay, however, to enter a feline in a cat agility contest with no practice whatsoever. Once you get hooked on the sport, your biggest challenge may be in finding enough agility events to satisfy the agility "bug."

Agility events are not offered at every cat show, but as interest continues to climb, these fun events are being offered at an increasing number of shows. The CFA, TICA and ICAT websites all provide a schedule of upcoming shows and indicate if feline agility events will be offered.

If you plan on entering your cat or kitten at a show, be sure to read the entry form carefully for exhibitor instructions. Typically, kittens must be at least four months of age to be entered in a show, and household pets eight months and older must be altered. Some shows also require proof of rabies vaccination.

http://www.catwatchnewsletter.com/issues/12_7

New on the NCRAOA Website

Roaming Dogs, Leash Laws – a new topic on the miscellaneous dog laws page

<http://www.ncraoa.com/miscdoglaw.html> provides interesting links on the problems of roaming dogs, an excellent article by Author and Trainer, Kathy Diamond Davis, and a sample leash law.

Leash laws should be viewed as preventive measures, designed to minimize risk for dogs, humans, and other animals. Free roaming dogs are at risk of being poisoned, hit by cars, or injured by property owners who have no patience for the dog trespassing. Additionally, as they wander dogs pass and contract parasites and disease from fecal matter. Roaming dogs can be attacked, killed or injured by other dogs or animals. The absence of leash laws makes an unsafe community. Reasonable and enforceable laws or ordinances are required for control of unrestrained or free roaming animals. Sensible laws should ensure that owned animals are confined to their property or kept on a leash without punishing responsible owners who have control over their dogs in public areas while training, hunting, or working. Leash laws are also an important part of dog bite prevention. Although most dog bites occur on the property where the dog lives, unrestrained or free-roaming dogs pose a threat to the public. Control of unrestrained and free-roaming animal populations requires an adequately staffed, trained, and funded animal control agency.

Poisoned Through Their Hooves

Ashley Mitek, Information Specialist, University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine

A few weeks ago, a local stable received a shipment of wood shavings to bed its stalls, as is routine for most horse operations. Little did anyone know that within this batch of shavings from a furniture manufacturer was a toxin that mysteriously causes horses to become lame within 24 to 48 hours.

The culprit is black walnut. If furniture is made from this type of wood, the shavings will inevitably find their way into horse stalls if the furniture manufacturer contracts for services with a horse barn.

According to Dr. Elysia Schaefer, an equine surgery resident at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana who has treated affected horses, "The exact toxin that causes the laminitis is unknown, but it is absorbed through the hoof wall and causes inflammation, leading to pain." Technically speaking, laminitis is a painful inflammation of a structure in the hoof called the lamina, which causes a horse to become lame.

"It can take as little as five percent black walnut in a batch of shavings to cause laminitis in a horse," says Dr. Schaefer. Although finding black walnut in shavings used for horse stalls is rare these days, if several horses in a large barn become lame simultaneously, black walnut laminitis becomes an increasing suspicion.

Once black walnut laminitis is suspected, the most important thing to do is to remove the horse from the stall as quickly as possible. "The longer the horse has been exposed to the toxic shavings, the more severe the long-term effects may be," states Dr. Schaefer. She also mentions that the fresher the shavings, the more likely they are to harm the horse.

"His legs were swollen and he refused to walk forward," says Kate, the owner of a horse diagnosed with black walnut laminitis. When she checked on her quarter horse early one morning, she was very concerned by his awkward stance and swollen limbs. She immediately loaded him in the trailer and drove to the equine clinic at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital where veterinarians were able to begin treatment for laminitis.

Typical treatment of a horse with black walnut laminitis is the same as for a horse that has laminitis from a different cause. Veterinarians begin by taking radiographs, or x-rays, to examine the bones in the horse's hoof to make sure they have not rotated out of position.

To reduce swelling, laminitic horses usually have their legs cold hosed a few times a day, and also receive some type of anti-inflammatory medication. To alleviate pressure on the horse's hoof, Dr. Schaefer mentions that these horses frequently will be placed in a sand stall or have styrofoam pads placed beneath their hooves. A new commercially-marketed product, "Soft Rides," act as tennis shoes for horses, and also aid in the recovery process.

The only way to confirm that black walnut is present in bedding is through a laboratory analysis. The wood shavings in this case were sent to a botanist in Wisconsin to determine if black walnut was present. <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/petcolumns/index.cfm?function=showarticle&id=554>

Discussion - Model Spay/Neuter Laws

Over the years animal rights organizations, such as the Progressive Animal Welfare Society, People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Institute for Animal Rights Law (IARL), and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have worked to enact costly dog licensing fees and mandatory pet sterilization laws in dozens of localities – none of which met with success and all of them aimed at advancing the animal rights agenda.

Although legislation promises a “quick fix” for more than 30 years this scenario of punitive legislation has failed in every municipality where it has been enacted—including cities like Long Beach CA and Denver CO where total breeding bans were passed into law.

Animal rights activists, constantly motivated by groups such as HSUS and PETA, continue to beat this tired legislative drum and wave the banner calling for breeding restrictions and mandatory spay/neuter laws.

INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS LAW (IARL)

One of the standard models of a mandatory spay/neuter law was developed and is available from the Institute for Animal Rights Law (IARL)—a program of the International Society for Animal Rights (ISAR). The breeding prohibition of the model law reads: “it shall be unlawful to harbor in this jurisdiction any unspayed cat or dog over four months of age or any un-neutered cat or dog over four months of age.”

What is IARL? Their website byline reads “Providing Legal Information, Analysis, and Guidance for the Animal Rights Movement.”

Even a quick review of IARL’s website reveals several other areas of legal maneuvering in the name of animal rights such as "standing to sue" on behalf of animals.

There is also an essay on the “rights of animals” which basically places blame for all confusion about our use of animals on the book of Genesis: “Absent from the history of ideas has been even a semi-plausible notion to the contrary, let alone a defensible, fully integrated theory of animal rights. The problem begins with the Book of Genesis (1:24-28): "And God said: 'Let us make our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.'"

The essay continues, “Before change could come, these ideas had to be discarded. Although it was a long gestation, finally, in the last twenty years a handful of philosophers, scientists, theologians, and lawyers — among them Brigid Brophy, Andrew Linzey, Richard Ryder, Peter Singer, Gary Francione, and Steven M. Wise — have launched broadside attacks on the basic ideas which for so long have served to rationalize man's brutalization of the only other living species with whom he shares this planet.”

However, ISAR’s introduction to their organization tells it all:

ISAR, the first organization in the world to use the term Animal Rights in a corporate name, was founded in 1959 to expose and end the injustice of the exploitation of animals and the suffering inflicted on them. We are candid about our goals, and we are tenacious in their pursuit. Often called "ahead of its time" and "the conscience of the movement," ISAR seeks to end, rather than to regulate, uses of animals that deny them their rights and cause them suffering.

CONCLUSION

Clearly it can be seen that The Institute for Animal Rights Law is not an animal welfare organization; there are no shelter management experts, veterinarians, animal caretakers, or animal control personnel. There is not even the smallest shred of evidence that the model ordinance drafted by this radical organization provides any animal welfare benefit. The purpose of this model ordinance is solely to advance the animal rights agenda into our legal system.

Battling a Canine Killer

Half of all dogs will develop some sort of cancer in their lifetime and one in four dogs will die. These are the sad statistics of this dreaded disease that affect people and pets. Canine cancer is so prevalent that it is the leading killer of dogs over the age of two. The Canine Cancer Project is now underway to help fund studies aimed at eliminating canine cancer in the next ten to twenty years.

The Morris Animal Foundation (www.morrisanimalfoundation.org) has created the Canine Cancer Campaign to try and defeat this terrible disease.

At www.curecaninecancer.org, you and your family can learn about research that is being done to detect cancer earlier and treat it more effectively. Their goal is to raise more than 30 million dollars in just five years! This money will allow the Cancer Campaign to not only find cures for cancer in dogs, but may also lead towards reducing and eliminating some human cancers as well.

NIH Allocates Funding for Cornell's DNA Research Program

Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine has received a four-year, \$900,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support research within its DNA Bank. The bank, established to better understand the genetic basis for canine diseases, contains almost 3,000 DNA samples collected from pedigreed canines visiting the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

The grant will be used to establish a DNA archive of control and diseased purebred dogs; to genotype diseased and control purebred dogs; and to encourage multi-institutional mapping collaborations and share genotypes with the genetics community.

Source: Veterinary Practice News June 2008

Protecting your right to responsibly own and breed animals.

Join NCRAOA. See our home page for membership information and application

For more information on animal health, training, reports on pet issues, animal sheltering, or to learn the difference between animal welfare and animal rights – visit our website at www.ncraoa.com

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws.

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