

NC Legislative Update

Senate Majority Leader, Tony Rand (D-Bladen, Cumberland), pulled SB 460 from the July 8th Calendar after it failed to reach a caucus consensus prior to the start of the Senate session. SB 460 was sent to the Rules Committee, possibly for more amendments.

Amendments and revisions to SB 460 are not acceptable. Commercial breeder is now defined as someone who owns 15 or more intact females of breeding age and 30 or more puppies. The bill exempts kennels that operate for the purpose of boarding or training hunting, sporting, herding, show, or working dogs. Exemptions are NOT a guarantee for future protection. HSUS has proven they will continue to lobby for increasingly restrictive legislation. This is the step or incremental method of gaining power over breeding and owning dogs. It is urgent to contact your senator and ask that he vote NO on SB B 460.

SB 460 is opposed by NCRAOA, North Carolina Federation of Dog Clubs, NC Sporting Dog Association, American Kennel Club, American Dog Owners Association, American Dog Breeders Association, National Rifle Association, Sportsmen's & Animal Owners' Voting Alliance, The American Sporting Dog Alliance, United Kennel Club, and others.



The HSUS **Commercial Breeder bill SB460** is sponsored by Sen. Don Davis (D, Greene, Pitt, Wayne).

Two billboards are now displayed in Senator Don Davis' district. They went up last Thursday, one on Highway 70 in Goldsboro and one in Snow Hill close to the Greene County Courthouse.

California Dept of Finance Opposes SB 250

In 2008, California was a battleground as dog and cat owners and breeders worked to defeat mandatory spay/neuter bill AB1634. This year, Senator Dean Florez introduced SB 250 on behalf of animal rights radicals which would mandate spay neuter of most dogs, all outdoor cats, and force sterilization of impounded animals before they can be returned to their owners. The California Department of Finance recently published a bill analysis in opposition to SB 250. The analysis states:

“This bill would result in a substantial increase to the General Fund cost of the Animal Adoption mandate. The Animal Adoption mandate currently costs more than \$24 million annually to reimburse local government shelters' cost to care for impounded animals. Given the current economic climate,

requiring the owners of dogs and cats to pay for sterilization procedures would result in more animals being abandoned or surrendered because of the owners' inability to finance the sterilization procedure and pay additional fines. This bill could create a new state-mandated local program by requiring local agencies to utilize existing procedures or establish new procedures for unaltered dog license denials and appeals, which would create additional pressures on the General Fund. The increased administrative costs of these new tasks are unknown.

The Department of Finance is opposed to this measure because it would increase costs for an existing state-mandated local program, potentially create a new state mandated local program, and result in General Fund costs that are not included in the 2009-10 Budget Act.”

The full analysis can be read at http://www.dof.ca.gov/legislative_analyses/LIS_PDF/09/SB-250-20090624015733PM-SB00250.pdf

House Funding Bill Excludes Animal Identification System

The National Animal Identification System (NAIS) will receive no new funding under a 2010 spending bill proposed by the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA appropriations subcommittee. Chairwoman Rosa L. DeLauro (D-Ct.) announced bill details June 11. “The bill eliminates funding for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). After receiving \$142 million in funding since fiscal year 2004, APHIS has yet to put into operation an effective system that would provide needed animal health and livestock market benefits. USDA is currently conducting a public listening tour around the country for several months to hear from stakeholders. Until USDA finishes its listening sessions and provides details as to how it will implement an effective ID system, continued investments into the current NAIS are unwarranted.”

Senate Appropriations Committee Passes Ag Budget with NAIS Funding

July 8. The Senate Appropriations Committee has passed a \$124.5 Billion Ag funding bill that contains money for the National Animal Identification System, (NAIS). Montana Democrat, Senator John Tester, says he’s always had concerns about the merits of the livestock disease trace-back system and will work to remove funding for it when the bill reaches the Senate floor, “I believe that there are cheaper, more effective tools that the USDA has **failed** to utilize. We have spent over 142-Million dollars on implementing animal ID, there’s no end in sight. This bill includes another 14 Million (dollars).”Tester’s state of Montana is home to the group R-CALF USA, a staunch opponent of NAIS. The House Appropriations Committee ag funding bill that passed last month “zeroes-out” funds for the national animal ID system.

And, North Dakota Democrat Byron Dorgan says he will try and amend the bill to have the Obama Treasury Department overturn a Bush Administration requirement that Cuba pay for U.S. farm products before they’re shipped. “Normally you would pay when the good is transferred at the dock. And it has hurt our farmers and our ability to sell into that marketplace,” Dorgan says.

The Senate Ag funding bill contains increases for mandatory farm subsidies but mostly for nutrition programs, including both domestic and international food aid. It passed the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously. *Brownfield Ag News*.

PIJAC leads successful grassroots effort on HR 669

The entire pet industry, including individual hobbyists and pet owners, rallied around PIJAC's opposition to HR 669, creating one of the most significant grassroots responses on Capitol Hill in many years. On April 23, the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife held a hearing at which PIJAC was the sole (witness) representative speaking for pet owners and the pet industry. PIJAC's testimony dissected HR 669, highlighting problems with implementing the proposed risk assessment process and disputing the proposed "Likelihood Doctrine" which would list a species as "approved" only if there was no likelihood that it could ever become invasive anywhere in the United States now or sometime in the future. PIJAC is credited with illustrating the numerous problems associated with the bill as currently drafted. PIJAC does not believe that HR 669 is "dead" and continues to strive for a viable solution to properly dealing with invasive species.

Prior to the hearing, PIJAC's Marshall Meyers and Bambi Osborne met with subcommittee members' staffs as well as Majority and Minority staff members to relay industry concerns about this bill. PIJAC engaged all segments of the industry, including retailers, animal suppliers, hobbyists, and manufacturers. PIJAC also collaborated with organizations like NOHR669.com, Kingsnake.com and birdchannel.com, using the Internet to alert the pet owning public, hobbyists, and commercial interests of the dangers of HR 669. Their websites provided the public access to PIJAC's Pet Alerts and other valuable information on HR 669; banners for uploading to individual websites; and other aids to help spread the word. PIJAC's detailed PetAlert on HR 669 was widely disseminated and was featured on Google, Yahoo, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Digg, and hundreds of thousands of websites.

THE FUTURE OF HR 669

As of now, the future of HR 669 is uncertain. Proponents are regrouping and allegedly drafting amendments to HR 669J; some contend a new will be introduced in the Fall; others argue that HR 669 language may be attached to another bill. The key groups supporting HR 669 include Defenders of Wildlife, Union of Concerned Scientists, The Nature Conservancy and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

PIJAC submitted a letter on June 3 urging the Subcommittee to encourage the US Fish and Wildlife Service to host a series of multi-stakeholder workshops to explore ways of reaching a common goal to minimize the risk of introducing invasive species into our environment. PIJAC's concept was endorsed by a diverse group of stakeholders. PIJAC also submitted supplemental testimony demonstrating that, contrary to comments made during the hearing and in *Science*, the United States is not "awash" in unknown imported nonnative species. PIJAC submitted copies of import documents mandated by law that provide the Fish and Wildlife Service with information on the numbers of specimens by species.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and PIJAC will meet to discuss how PIJAC and the service might collaborate in developing a catalogue of species in trade. Preparation of such a list will require a substantial commitment to review and compile information from an estimated 1.5 million import declaration forms. This Catalog approach would be used as a basis for identifying species already in trade if the process recommended in the National Invasive Species Management Plan is implemented.

The Plan calls for requiring risk assessments for any species being imported into the US for the “first-time”. While a species already in trade could be evaluated as a potential “invasive”, such species would not be removed from trade until shown to be invasive. The “first-time introduction” approach is a PIJAC proposal dating back to 1996. PIJAC is continuing to coordinate activities of a diverse coalition with the aim of developing a process that deals with proven invasives rather than declaring everything bad until proven innocent and disrupting trade.

Overall, the pet industry supports development of a strategic, science/risk based process to prevent the introduction of invasive species (harmful, nonnative species) into the US. We are eager and willing to work with Congress and others to craft legislation that adequately takes into account socio-economic issues, risk management options, funds and staffing required by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the effects on pets and their owners. *PIJAAC Newsletter, June 2009.*

Survey Says Processing Plants a Solution

Horse owners open to reopening of U.S. processing plants, according to survey.

Jun 19, 2009 By: [James M. Lewis](#) DVM NEWSMAGAZINE

Washington -- Reopening of U.S. processing plants is among the four most popular solutions suggested for dealing with increasing numbers of unwanted horses nationwide, based on an online survey of horse owners, industry stakeholders and other interested parties.

The survey, conducted by the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC), operating through the National Horse Council (NHC), was conducted from last December through February of this year. Complete results are expected to be published by the end of this month, but UHC Chairman Tom Lenz, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACT, provided some of the highlights at this week's AHC "Welfare of the Horse" forum in Washington, D.C.

The survey had 23,151 respondents, with participants directed to either of two surveys, one for horse owners and the other for industry stakeholders and non-horse owners interested in the issue. Industry stakeholders include veterinarians, professional trainers and breeders, rescue facility operators, academics and equine association staff members. The UHC reports a survey confidence interval of 95%, and no significant difference in responses by region or state.

The survey's overall top four solutions to the unwanted-horse problem were educating owners on responsible ownership, increasing the ability of private rescue and retirement facilities to care for more horses, reopening U.S. processing plants and increased options and resources to euthanize and dispose of unwanted horses.

The survey noted that horse owners and stakeholders have a set of shared beliefs, as do equine rescue operators and non-owners. Some beliefs are shared, while some - particularly on reopening processing plants - are in opposition.

The survey notes these points about rescue groups and non-owner interested parties: Rescue operators are voluntary caretakers passionate about their work, voice opinions through the media and other public forums and believe processing plants should never be reopened. They cite the economy and irresponsible breeding as the main causes of the unwanted-horse problem.

Of the shared beliefs of stakeholders and horse owners, the survey notes: Horses are an integral part of their lifestyle and livelihood; they believe the media and public don't fully understand the challenges of caring for, training and maintaining horses; believe processing plants should be reopened; that owners should be better educated; and that funding for rescues should be increased. They cite the closing of the plants, the economy, irresponsible breeding and high cost of euthanasia/disposal as the top contributors to the problem.

Among other findings, the survey also noted that public perception that unwanted horses have become a critical problem has escalated, although familiarity with the issue is highest among those closest to it.

<http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/dvm/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/605107>

Ohio Measure Would Create Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board

Has Support of Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President and Many More

In a show of bipartisan support, legislators from both parties and representatives of the state's agriculture organizations announced on June 22 a cooperative effort to place a comprehensive animal care amendment on the November 2009 ballot. House Joint Resolution 2, sponsored by Representative Allan Sayre (D-Dover), and Senate Joint Resolution 6, sponsored by Senator Bob Gibbs (R-Lakeville), were introduced on June 18 in both chambers.

The joint resolutions propose a measure that would create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board (the Board), a 13-member state board that would determine and enforce guidelines for the care and well-being of livestock and poultry in Ohio in order to protect food safety and locally produced food for Ohioans.

Governor Ted Strickland has given his support to the proposed amendment, which also has the support of Speaker Armond Budish, Senate President Bill Harris, House Minority Leader Bill Batchelder and Senate Minority Leader Capri Cafaro.

"Clearly, the public wants reassurance that the food they consume is produced here in Ohio, and that it is safe to eat and responsibly farmed," said Rep. Sayre. "By creating an expert body that can evaluate and implement standards for livestock and poultry care, Ohio responds to this need with a forthright, effective approach that leverages the best expertise available in our state."

"This proposal is an essential step in sustaining the state's livestock and poultry industries for generations to come," said Sen. Gibbs. "Agriculture is the top contributor to Ohio's economy, and this is an opportune time for Ohio to lead the way in regulating safe food production that respects animals, consumers and our farmers."

The state's elected officials were joined in their support by leaders of Ohio's agriculture community, including representatives of the state's commodity organizations, individual farmers and other stakeholder groups, which have expressed their collective support for the Board's creation.

"How food is produced in Ohio is a legitimate area of public interest, and we are committed to doing even more than what is expected of us," said Jack Fisher, executive vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. "It's time for Ohio to take control of the animal care issue by supporting proactive steps to protect both our food supply and our flocks and herds, while also ensuring we can produce the amount of food necessary to feed Ohio and the world."

He said Ohio farmers have been concerned about out-of-state efforts to ban modern food production and housing methods - efforts that could reduce the availability of food produced in Ohio, increase the risk of animal disease and jeopardize food safety measures - and that a positive common-sense, Ohio-based solution is the right response.

"Ohio hog farmers recognize that they have both a moral and ethical obligation to provide for the humane treatment of their animals," said Dick Isler, executive vice president of the Ohio Pork Producers Council. "That's why we fully support the creation of the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board because it ensures that animal well-being is top-of-mind in all livestock production practices."

"Ohio's egg farmers are firmly committed to responsible animal care - it's the right thing to do and it makes sense for our flocks," said Jim Chakeres, executive vice president of the Ohio Poultry Association. "We look forward to working with the new board of experts to advance our common goal of caring for our hens to ensure that they are healthy, that our food supply is safe, and that nutritious, affordable eggs are available for Ohio consumers."

The legislation would give the Board authority to promulgate animal care rules. "This ensures that Ohio decisions affecting livestock and poultry care will be the product of the best thinking of Ohio experts, including farmers, veterinarians and the Department of Agriculture," said Fisher.

Regulations promulgated by the Board for the livestock and poultry industries will give weight to food safety, local availability and affordability and to best farm management practices for animal well-being. Among its responsibilities are the consideration of biosecurity on livestock farms, animal disease prevention, food safety and food production volume and price.

Thirteen members will be appointed to the Board, including 10 by the Governor and one each by the House and Senate. The Ohio Director of Agriculture will serve ex officio as the 13th member and as chair of the Board. The Board will comprise a broad base of experts in livestock and poultry care, including three family farmers, two veterinarians (one of whom is the state veterinarian), a food safety expert, a representative of a local humane society, two members from statewide farm organizations, the dean of an Ohio agriculture college and two members representing Ohio consumers.

It is no surprise that Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other animal rights groups oppose the regulations and have threatened to still run a ballot initiative in 2010. It appears that this proposal has put activists on defense. Once the resolutions have been merged and passed, the real work of getting voters to support the measure with their votes this fall begins.

Source: Animal Agriculture Alliance Newsletter June 2009

<http://www.animalagalliance.org>

AAFP Updates Guidelines on Care of Senior Cats

The American Association of Feline Practitioners has released a new version of its Senior Care Guidelines, available on the AAFP Web site at www.catvets.com.

The AAFP dedicated the publication to the late Dr. James R. Richards, co-author of the original guidelines in 1998. Two of Dr. Richard's favorite sayings were: "Cats are masters at hiding illness" and "Age is not a disease." The guidelines focus on recognition and treatment of the problems that cats develop with age.

The second edition of the Senior Care Guidelines includes recommendations for senior cats' wellness visits, nutrition and weight management, dental care, anesthesia, disease monitoring and management, and quality of life. The publication covers common conditions of senior cats such as hypertension, chronic kidney disease, hyperthyroidism, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer, osteoarthritis, and cognitive disorders.

Drs. Jeanne M. Pittari and Ilona Rodan were the co-chairs of the panel that updated the guidelines. Sponsors of the publication are Nestlé Purina, Merial, Idexx Laboratories, Nutramax Laboratories, and Abbott Laboratories. <http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/jul09/090715h.asp>

Online arthritis resource for pet owners

To educate pet owners about arthritis—and ways to prevent and treat it—the Morris Animal Foundation developed a Web site at www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org/arthritis with tips on early detection and treatment of arthritis in pets.

Videos on the site feature pet owners as well as interviews with veterinarians and an animal chiropractor. The site offers management tips, resources for helping pets at home, and links to the latest in MAF-sponsored research.

Veterinary researchers estimate that 20 percent of adult dogs have osteoarthritis and that 45 percent of cats experience arthritic pain, according to the foundation, which has supported approximately 15 studies on arthritis-related issues. Current research focuses on the efficacy of various complementary treatments for arthritis.

Once-A-Month Pill For Both Fleas And Ticks

02 Jul 2009 Scientists in New Jersey are describing discovery and successful tests of the first once-a-month pill for controlling both fleas and ticks in domestic dogs and cats. Their study is in the current issue of ACS' *Journal of the Medicinal Chemistry*, a bi-weekly publication. Peter Meinke and colleagues at Merck Research Laboratories note the need for better ways of controlling fleas and ticks, driven in part by increases in pet ownership. Estimates suggest that there were 71 million pet dogs and 81 million pet cats in the United States alone in 2007 - up from 61 million and 70 million in 2001. Although many powders, sprays and other topical agents are on the market, many pet owners prefer the convenience of pills. Products given orally can reach more parts of an animal's body, do not wash off in rain or bath water, and don't transfer from pets to people. At least one existing pill fights fleas in pets, but does not appear effective for ticks.

In tests on fleas and ticks in dogs and cats, a single dose of the new pill was 100 percent effective in protecting against both fleas and ticks for a month. There were no signs of toxic effects on the animals. Scientists obtained the flea and tick fighter from a substance first found in a fungus that "has the potential to usher in a new era in the treatment of ectoparasitic [ticks and fleas, for instance] infestations in companion animals."

Source American Chemical Society

Article URL: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/156120.php>

AR-HR.com - Thoughts on the 4th of July

As we celebrate Independence Day, some commentary on Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness from the excellent and thought provoking blog of Erica Saunders.

- It is the right of the individual to breed dogs as much as it is the right of the individual who wishes to participate in rescue to do so.
- It is the right of an individual to sell animals as much as it is the right of a rescue or shelter to sell animals.
- It is the right of the farmer to run their business based on a non-organic business model or on an organic one.
- It is the right of the individual to choose to include meat in their diet, or not.
- It is the right of the individual to choose how they care for animals they own, so long as the care does not violate legal standards of care.
- It is the right of the hunter to hunt animals within the bounds of the law, while it is the right of the non-hunter to not participate in hunting.
- It is the right of an individual to choose to obtain their pet from the source they select.
- It is right of one individual to say they don't agree with the actions of another.

By protecting the liberties of others, even those we don't agree with, we protect our own liberty. By protecting the ability of others to pursue happiness, we protect our own ability to pursue happiness. By protecting the rights of others to choose, we protect our own right to choice. Choose what makes you human(e).

Read the full article and more at *Animal Rights or Human Responsibility (AR-HR)* <http://ar-hr.com/>

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. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.