

## **AVMA Revises Spay/Neuter Policy**

At its meeting on April 2-3, 2009, the AVMA Executive Board approved new language stating that the AVMA does not support regulations or legislation mandating spay/neuter of privately owned, non-shelter dogs and cats. The recommendation explains that although spaying and neutering helps control dog and cat populations, mandatory approaches may contribute to pet owners avoiding licensing, rabies vaccination and veterinary care for their pets, and may have other unintended consequences. The AVMA policy continues to urge state and local governments to evaluate their needs and resources to develop appropriate and effective dog and cat population control programs, with several specific recommendations. Full text of the revised policy can be found here: [http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/animal\\_welfare/population\\_control.asp](http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/animal_welfare/population_control.asp)

## **Current NC Legislation**

HB 733 Regulate commercial breeding of dogs. Introduced by Rep. McElraft (Jones, Carteret). Licenses as a commercial breeder anyone who maintains 15 females in a 12 month period; limits ownership to 20. Sets facility standards and mandates that an adult female dog shall not be bred without an annual certification from a licensed veterinarian that the dog is in suitable health for breeding. Contains an ineffective exemption for hunting dog kennels. Status: Referred to Committee on Agriculture. A hearing was called for April 22; however HB 733 was not heard. The room was packed with dog breeders and hunters opposing the bill. <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=hb733&submitButton=Go>

SB 460 Commercial dog breeders. Senate version of HB 733; does not limit ownership to 20 and has no exemptions. Introduced by Sen. Don Davis (Wayne) Status: Referred to Committee on Commerce <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=SB460>

HB 626 Restraining of dogs. Prohibits tethering for longer than 9 hours in 24. Introduced by Senators Yongue (Scotland); Fisher (Buncombe); McComas (New Hanover); Burr (Stanley, Union, Montgomery) Status: Referred to Committee on Wildlife Resources <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=hb+626>

SB 695 Restraining of dogs. Prohibits tethering for longer than 3 hours in 24. Introduced by Senators Linda Garrou (Forsyth) and Don Vaughn (Guilford). Status: Referred to Judiciary I <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2009&BillID=S695>

The bills are opposed by NCRAOA, American Kennel Club (AKC), North Carolina Federation of Dog Clubs, North Carolina Sporting Dog Association (NCSDA), Appalachian Houndmen Association, and the North Carolina Farm Bureau. Information, talking points, form letters and contact information to **oppose** these bills can be found on the NCRAOA alerts page. **ACT NOW AND CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR!!**

## **Court Rules Producer Records Protected Under Privacy Act**

A federal court has ruled records collected through the National Animal Identification System are protected by the U.S. Privacy Act. This means sensitive producer information about premises, businesses and animals is safe from release to the public. NCBA supports the decision, which still is subject to appeal.

“It is important that our producers can trust that confidential business information will be protected from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests,” said NCBA Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Colin Woodall.

NCBA favors a voluntary individual animal identification program that supports genetic improvement, source verification and disease surveillance. Under a voluntary program, federal and state government officials would be provided information to improve the nation’s animal health surveillance systems.

“From our conversations with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we understand that it is easier to protect sensitive data from FOIA requests under a voluntary system,” said Woodall. “This is one more reason to support voluntary identification systems rather than a government mandate.”

<http://cattlenetwork.com/Content.asp?ContentID=306197>

## **Rabies Cases Reported**

CHAPEL HILL: A raccoon that got into a tangle with three dogs in north Orange County was rabid, test results from the N.C. Rabies Laboratory confirmed. In reporting the finding on Wednesday, Orange County Animal Services said the dogs' exposure occurred on Friday, when residents in the vicinity of N.C. Highway 86 North and Phelps Road witnessed their three dogs chase a raccoon up a tree in their yard. Later that afternoon, they saw the dogs tree the raccoon again, and then witnessed the raccoon fall from the tree and the dogs surround it. One of the residents then shot the raccoon and called Animal Control to remove it for testing. This is the fourth positive rabies case of 2009 in Orange County.

GREENSBORO: Two rabid raccoons were found recently in Guilford County, bringing the number of cases in the county this year to four. The Guilford County Department of Public Health said a raccoon found Thursday tested positive for the rabies virus. Before the raccoon was discovered, it came in contact with a dog that was not current on its rabies shot. The dog later died at the Guilford County Animal Shelter of canine parvovirus. A raccoon found in southeast Guilford County on Sunday also tested positive for the rabies virus. The rabid raccoon had contact with one unvaccinated cat.

SWAN QUARTER, NC: The Hyde County Health Department reports the first confirmed case of rabies in Hyde County in 2009. On April 8th, a dog was attacked and killed by a raccoon at a private residence on North Lake Road. The raccoon was killed by the dog’s owner, and subsequently delivered to the Health Department by Hyde County’s Animal Control Officer. The head of the raccoon was sent to the State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies testing. On April 9th, the State Lab informed the Health Department that the raccoon tested positive for rabies.

CHEROKEE COUNTY: Six cases of rabies have been confirmed in the last three weeks. The latest was a fox that attacked a man in his home.

IREDELL COUNTY: Five cases of rabies have been confirmed in Iredell County in the first three months of the year. Four were skunks and the fifth was a cow. There is no way to determine what bit the cow.

## **AKC/CAR**

The AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund was established in 2002, as a permanent charitable fund with the primary goal of providing essential resources, support and funding to Not-for-Profit Canine Search and Rescue organizations. In 2008, AKC CAR awarded 26 grants, tallying over \$180,000, to various groups. In the closing months of 2008, AKC CAR awarded grants to **Search One Rescue Team**, one of the largest and oldest K9 Search and Rescue organizations in Texas and **Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (SAR) Team** in the state of Washington. Read More: <http://www.akc.org/dogny/grants.cfm>

## **Head of LA Animal Services Resigns Under Pressure**

The Associated Press. Posted: 04/25/2009 09:42:09 AM PDT

LOS ANGELES—The head of the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services has resigned under intense criticism—the fourth general manager to quit, leave or be fired in four years. Ed Boks will be off-duty beginning June 1 and will officially step down on June 30.

His predecessors were criticized by animal advocates and threatened by extremists.

Boks, who was appointed by the mayor in 2005, faced calls to resign from animal advocates and his own staff, although during his tenure the number of pets killed in shelters declined and adoptions rose. The city also passed a mandatory pet sterilization law aimed at reducing unwanted pets. But Boks caused an uproar recently when, as a budget-cutting move, he suspended a free sterilization program for pets belonging to low-income residents. He later reinstated it.

[http://www.times-standard.com/statenews/ci\\_12226881](http://www.times-standard.com/statenews/ci_12226881)

## **Animal Rights Activist Named to FBI's Most Wanted list**

WASHINGTON — A fugitive animal rights activist believed to be hiding outside the United States has become the first domestic terror suspect named to the FBI's list of "Most Wanted" terrorists.

Daniel Andreas San Diego, a 31-year-old computer specialist from Berkeley, Calif., is wanted for the 2003 bombings of two corporate offices in California.

Authorities say San Diego has unusual tattoos, including one that shows a burning field and proclaims, "It only takes a spark."

FBI Assistant Director Michael Heimbach announced San Diego's addition to its "Most Wanted" terrorists list at a press conference Tuesday. Authorities believe he has fled the United States.

Officials have offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to his capture, five times the reward amounts offered for other so-called eco-terrorists wanted in the U.S.

The FBI says animal rights and environmental extremists have been responsible for over 1,800 criminal acts and more than \$110 million in damages. Currently, the bureau is investigating 170 animal rights or environmental extremism incidents.

Law enforcement officials describe San Diego as a strict vegan who possesses a 9mm handgun. On his abdomen, he has tattoo images of burning and collapsing buildings.

# Let Ownership Prevail

By Barbara Axel

Recently my dog received a letter. It was addressed to him by name, mailed by the local veterinarian's office, to ask that he tell Barbara that he was due for an appointment. Earlier that same week I got an email addressed to my pets that asked them to tell their pet parents that they were running low on food. I ignored both missives. They were not addressed to me, and though smart and accomplished, my pets do not read.

There has been a change in the tone of pet catalogs too, for they seem to be devoting their biggest sections to pet costume wear....not protection against inclement weather... but instead, holiday costumes and, currently, beachwear, so the pets become the furry children, equal to their human owners. I used to accept and even enjoy innocent, witty, anthropomorphic stories, but no longer. The stories, however innocent-seeming, currently support an organized, darker intent.

We are getting too used to seeing and hearing animals being called our children, and are being lulled into acceptance and complacency by that frequently used terminology, even if we ourselves really don't believe animals are humans in fur coats. It's no accident. The terms pet parent, fur kids, and their ilk are the precursors of the introduction of laws making us, their "guardians" rather than "owners."

Do you really believe that your dog thinks you are his mother, father, sibling? Animal rights enthusiasts are currently trying to convince legislators that by using the terms the activists call "kinder and gentler," pets will be taken care of more responsibly by the people with whom they live. Their actual intent is to remove pets from being considered property, with all the constitutional rights and guarantees afforded property, and instead to substitute the term guardians so our pets automatically become wards of the state. Guardian is a legal term that means we will have no rights at all. It is the beginning of the end of the relationship with animals as we now know it.

If pets become our wards:

- Outside agencies may be formed to monitor care of the pets who share our homes. HSUS will volunteer to step in. We will no longer have the final choice in veterinary procedures. Since animals are no longer property, property rights will not apply. We then can be required to pay for procedures and care we might not have chosen if an outside agency determines that they are in the best interest of that pet.

- Formerly private records, including medical information, might be released to outside agencies without our permission. It will be the law. We will not be able to sell, give away, or co-own a pet, but will be required to transfer an animal ward to another guardian, with it being acceptable to the controlling agency that the transfer is in the best interests of our ward. Background checks on the breeder/guardian may become routine. Animal rights activist organizations will convince legislators that they are the best equipped to provide this service to the state or municipality, and thus have the deciding voice regarding the use of not only our pets, but also farm animals for food, research animals, zoos, circuses, service dogs, etc. Currently, even without the term guardian being available as a tool, animal rights activists are trying to prevent and restrict these activities. The premises they have espoused, however faulty, are being used with the support of legislators as the standards for animal care.

- Homeowners' insurance may burgeon or be denied to anyone harboring animals and veterinarians may see an increase in expensive malpractice insurance as small and large animal doctors must assume that those who harbor animals will be able to sue for punitive damages.

I don't like the scenario at all, and you probably don't either. So put a stop to it before it becomes a reality. Prevent anyone from naming you a pet parent and your dog your child. Just tell them it is not funny or cute. Most likely the speaker did not have any ill will and will be surprised you stopped them. But they will also remember your words. If enough people stop these words from being uttered without protest, the practice will cease.

Tell your listener that your pet has a mother already. Exclaim, "Do I look like Fido's mother?" Tell them you already have human children, grandchildren and you are not happy at being called the parent of another species. Let them know your dog's mother, for instance, is a bitch in every good sense of the term being used correctly. She and her pups were purpose-bred, and have lived in your care their entire lives. You love them all dearly, and are proud of their accomplishments and titles, and their very existence, but they are, in no uncertain terms not human. Never have been, never will be. We are their owners, not their parents.

## **HOORAY for Pet Ownership!**

### **In Praise of the Pet Owner**

Your happy pets are there to stay.  
Those bonds grow stronger every day.  
You've assumed responsibility  
To nurture their tranquility,  
Gently ensure that they know  
YOU will choose the way to go,  
As they look to you to lead the way.



### **NC State Researchers Find Soy May Aid in Treating Canine Cancers**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 8, 2009. Researchers at North Carolina State University are looking to soy as a way to make traditional canine cancer therapy more effective, less stressful for the dog and less costly for the owners.

Dr. Steven Suter, assistant professor of oncology, and NC State colleagues studied genistein - a molecule found in soy that has been shown to be toxic to a wide variety of cancer cells in humans - to determine whether it would also inhibit the growth of canine lymphoma cells.

The researchers found that a commercially available form of genistein called GCP was effective in killing canine lymphoid cells in a laboratory setting, and that GCP is "bioavailable" in canines - meaning it is absorbed into the bloodstream where it can affect cancer cells in the body. The researchers hope that their findings will lead to the use of GCP for their canine patients in conjunction with traditional cancer treatments like chemotherapy.

The researchers' findings were published in *Clinical Cancer Research*.

"Humans have been using soy in conjunction with traditional chemotherapy for some time as a chemo potentiator," Suter says. "This means that the GCP makes the chemotherapy work more efficiently and faster, which translates to less stress on the patient and less money spent on chemotherapy."

Since dogs absorb GCP in much the same way that humans do, Suter hopes that veterinarians will be able to offer this therapy to canine patients in the near future.

"Since GCP is a dietary supplement, it is harmless to patients," he adds. "Plus it's inexpensive and easy to administer in a pill form. There's really no downside here."

## **Study: Shock Wave a Valid Treatment for Osteoarthritis**

by: *Stacey Oke, DVM, MSc.* April 10 2009 Article # 13936

Extracorporeal shock wave therapy (ESWT) significantly reduces lameness in horses with osteoarthritis, but does not alter the course of disease, report researchers from the Equine Orthopaedic Research Center at Colorado State University. They say ESWT could prove to be a valuable tool in the management of osteoarthritis, particularly if used in combination with another treatment modality capable of affecting the disease process. ESWT is non-invasive medical procedure that generates pulses of sound that travel through the skin. In horses, ESWT is used for the management of soft tissue injuries, as well as inflamed or arthritic joints.

To evaluate ESWT in horses with osteoarthritis, David Frisbie, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVS, and colleagues evaluated 24 horses, each with osteoarthritis induced in one knee. The researchers split these horses into three groups: an ESWT group, an ESWT placebo group (did not receive treatment), and a third group that received polysulfated glycosaminoglycan (PSGAG). ESWT was performed two times (on days 14 and 28 post-operatively) and PSGAG was administered intramuscularly every four days for 28 days.

The researchers looked at degree of lameness and synovial fluid analysis, as well as the gross and microscopic evaluation of the cartilage and synovial membranes.

According to Frisbie, horses treated with ESWT, "had a significant improvement in lameness compared to both the ESWT placebo and the horses treated with intramuscular PSGAG."

While no disease-modifying effect was noted in any of the treatment groups, the authors suggest that, based on this inaugural controlled study, ESWT might be beneficial for horses with evidence of osteoarthritis, particularly if used in conjunction with a drug known to have disease-modifying properties. Frisbie noted that no adverse events were seen in response to either the intramuscular PSGAG or the ESWT in any of the horses.

The study, "Evaluation of the effect of extracorporeal shock wave treatment on experimentally induced osteoarthritis in middle carpal joints of horses," was published in the April 2009 edition of the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*. <http://www.thehorse.com/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=13936>

## NAIS Meeting Strikes Out Again

April 15, 2009. Feedstuffs. A stakeholders summit on the troubled National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Wednesday in Washington, D.C., ended -- again -- with no consensus from the livestock industry. Officials from major livestock groups, representing a full range of viewpoints on the issue, met with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to lay out their positions.

Vilsack called the meeting after House agricultural appropriations subcommittee chairwoman Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D., Conn.) told him earlier this month that "the clock is ticking" on future funding for the program. Both she and House Agriculture Committee chairman Collin Peterson (D., Minn.) have threatened to end spending based on the underperformance of NAIS, which so far has cost taxpayers more than \$120 million.

Following today's meeting, Vilsack announced a new round of public "listening sessions" in an attempt to find a way to design a system that works effectively for market protection and animal health. He noted that there were entrenched positions among some species groups, but he remained optimistic on finding a solution for a system that would be effective for all participants.

With sharp criticism coming from Congress about the failed effort to develop such a system, the U.S. Department of Agriculture is under considerable pressure to find a solution before funding is for the program is zeroed out in the fiscal 2010 agricultural spending bill.

USDA will post the schedule for the listening sessions at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). There will also be an upcoming notice in the *Federal Register* asking for additional public comment on NAIS, according to a USDA statement today.

## Gaston County to Consider Differential Licensing Fees

Commissioners will not pursue a mandatory spay neuter program. Instead, Gaston County commissioners were urged by the Control Task Force Advisory Board to introduce a differential licensing program. Higher license fees for intact dogs and cats seeks to encourage residents to sterilize their pets using the county's low-cost spay and neuter program. In return, participants would get a discount on the county fee for registering and licensing their pets, which is required by law, though ignored by many residents. Under the differential licensing proposal, a pet owner with a spayed or neutered dog or cat would only be charged a licensing fee of \$10 per year, or they could purchase a three-year license for \$20. But a pet owner would have to pay \$35 per year for a dog or cat that was not spayed or neutered. Other license packages are being considered for breeders, hunters.

Historically, differential licensing reduces overall compliance with both licensing and rabies vaccinations. Contact the Gaston County Commissioners at <http://www.co.gaston.nc.us/CountyCommission/>

*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](http://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.