



## February, 2010

### **Virginia Tech Honors Fallen Virginia Law Enforcement Dogs**

It has been said in law enforcement that when the police need back up, they call in the SWAT team. When the SWAT team needs back up, they call in the K-9 unit.

Whether that saying is accurate or not, the more than 250 working law enforcement dogs in Virginia help apprehend criminals, detect drugs and explosives, and venture into places unsafe for humans on a daily basis.

Over the past 50 years, 12 dogs are known to have been killed in the line of duty. The sacrifices of these animals are now permanently memorialized on the campus of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, according to the school's Web site.

“Veterinary medicine plays an important part in this process by ensuring the health of these animals,” said Dr. Gerhard Schurig, dean of the veterinary college. “By maintaining the eyesight, sense of smell, hearing, and agility of these dogs, veterinarians are also helping to ensure the wellbeing of those the K-9 so selflessly protects.”

Dedicated on Oct. 16, 2009, the memorial, named “Ready to Serve,” is the only one of its kind in Virginia. It consists of a life-size bronze German Shepherd police dog sculpted by Blacksburg artist Larry Bechtel, creator of such installations as the “Officer Down” statue in front of the Roanoke, Va., City Police Department, the Addison Caldwell statue at Virginia Tech.

Located adjacent to the main entrance of the college’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital, the memorial uses a granite base to list the names of law enforcement dogs that have lost their lives in the line of duty in Virginia.

The memorial, funded entirely through private donations, was a project that took five years to complete. The project was a partnership between the veterinary college, the Virginia Police Work Dog Association, and the United States Police Canine Association. It was spearheaded by Officer John Hoover, a deputy with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department and a master K-9 trainer with both associations. *Source:*

*Newsleader.com*

## **We Are NOT Puppy Mills!!**

There is no legal definition of a "puppy mill". The term "puppy mill" has been promoted by HSUS and animal rights activists in the same manner as a racial slur to cast a negative picture on the whole industry of breeding dogs; the goal is to eventually make all the words interchangeable, commercial breeder="puppy mill"=hobby breeder. It is degrading and offensive to dog breeders to be called "puppy mills".

Increasingly, animal rights activists have broadened the term until anyone who breeds a dog is fair game for attack. Even someone who only breeds an occasional litter is at risk of being labeled as a dreaded "puppy mill" by activists who do not approve of breeding or procreation in the first place.

The "puppy mill" label is tossed around frequently with no basis of truth, solely to arouse the intense emotion needed to pass crippling legislation against dog breeding. Activists will use photos of run-down kennels and dirty dogs from any state – some even years old – to imply that dogs will lead horribly abused lives unless regulations are enacted.

An arbitrary number is then established for dogs owned or litters bred, and breeders who fall in either category become targets of the anti-breeding zealots lobbying for restrictive kennel regulations.

The animal rights movement is about control, not animal welfare. Although HSUS will argue that their bills are not intended to harm hobby breeders but just those "evil puppy mills", the truth is that HSUS has a well documented history of opposing all purposeful breeding of dogs.

In addition to labeling dog breeders, HSUS and their supporters label cities, counties, and sometimes entire states as "puppy mill capitals" – regardless of existing regulation – in an attempt to send the public and legislators on an emotional roller coaster ride demanding new laws.

- Riverside CA was dubbed the "puppy mill capital" of Southern California
- Activists placed billboards in Daviess County calling it the "puppy mill capital" of Indiana
- Clark County was labeled the "puppy mill capital" of Wisconsin
- Iowa, Nebraska, and Missouri have each been named as "puppy mill capital" of the entire Midwest and accused of widespread mistreatment of dogs
- HSUS lobbied hard to pass legislation in Pennsylvania labeling that state the "puppy mill capital" of the East.
- HSUS even moved into Canada labeling the City of Quebec as the "puppy mill capital" of Canada.

Fanatics are never satisfied. Now HSUS has turned its lobbying focus on North Carolina and is intensifying its campaign to widely regulate and inspect dog breeders in our state. Their new slogan: "North Carolina – First in Flight Now in Puppy Mills." This defamation cannot be tolerated.

No one supports neglect or abuse of animals. However, calling dog breeders "puppy mills" and claiming that they abuse their animals is unfair, unjust, and unacceptable.

This editorial is available for download on the NCRAOA website: <http://www.ncraoa.com/download.html>

## **Petland Wins Court Victory**

January 27, 2010 CHILLICOTHE, Ohio--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Petland is pleased, but not surprised with the United States District Court's ruling in Arizona, which dismissed virtually all of the claims that had been made against Petland.

HSUS widely reported that they had received hundreds of complaints from Petland customers, that it (HSUS) spent months investigating 32,000 puppy purchases from Petland and that thousands of the puppies sold by Petland were from substandard breeders, or "puppy mills." However, HSUS could only muster 31 purchasers over a period of more than five years to present a claim in court. Yesterday, the court dismissed the claims of 29 of those 31 people.

Despite HSUS's press release touting a legal win, The Court's ruling leaves only two claimants who will be permitted to present the facts of their case to determine if they are entitled to any reimbursement of money based upon the claimed illnesses of their dogs.

The two claimants purchased dogs from stores in Maine and in New Hampshire, which were individually owned and operated franchises. Both locations have since closed and Petland has found no evidence that these customers ever contacted Petland, Inc. for a settlement or to discuss their complaints for resolution.

Petland is also pleased to report that the Court rejected plaintiffs' broad claims relating to the sale of pets from substandard breeders, referred to by HSUS as "puppy mills." Petland supports humane breeding practices and the humane treatment of all animals and has provided such support for more than 40 years. Tens of thousands of people have positive experiences every year in their purchase of Petland pets. In this regard, Petland will continue to strive to create a positive experience for every Petland customer.

## **CDC Reorganization Creating Emerging and Zoonotic Disease Center**

A new division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is expected to improve resource allocation, scientific collaboration, and partnership in addressing emerging and zoonotic diseases, a spokesman said.

The CDC planned at press time to begin operations of the proposed National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases in January, but agency spokesman David Daigle said in a message that it could be longer until the change becomes official. The new division includes parts of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vectorborne, and Enteric Diseases and the National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Daigle said other parts of the two older centers will be merged into the Center for Global Health, which was also recently created, and other parts of the CDC. The change is expected to be budget-neutral.

He said the change is also expected to create a "clear and compelling vision and mission for addressing emerging and zoonotic infections," increase coordination of funding, improve the development and allocation of resources, improve scientific collaboration and communication regarding emerging infectious disease, and help the CDC work with partners on addressing microbial threats to animal and human health.

Daigle said the new center "will continue to promote a one-health approach involving the interface of humans, animals, and environmental factors as one of its priorities." *Source: JAVMA. February 1, 2010*

## Nutrition and Cancer: What's the Scoop?

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January 25, 2010. Whether you want to prevent your pet from developing cancer, or are the caretaker of a beloved animal that has recently been diagnosed, nutrition can play an important role in both situations.

If you are like most owners, once you hear a dreaded diagnosis from your veterinarian that your pet has a life-shortening disease, you treat each meal like it could be its last. Your lab that was once eating dry kibble is now feasting like a king on warm filet mignon and your Persian is getting accustomed to its lemon-crusting salmon. While such a change isn't a bad idea in moderation or when a pet refuses to eat, it is important that owners be aware of the ramifications of over-feeding a cancer patient.

For example, "it is more difficult to appropriately dose chemotherapy when a patient is overweight," explains Dr. Jackie Wypij, a veterinary oncologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana. In addition, overweight veterinary patients (like overweight human patients) are at an increased risk of anesthetic complications. Since the treatment for some cancers is surgical removal of a mass, anesthesia is often necessary.

Although cachexia, the loss of weight despite adequate or over-nutrition, is often seen in humans with cancer, "it's rare in cats and dogs," explains Dr. Wypij. Less than 5 percent of oncology patients experience the phenomenon. That is, unless an animal has some type of disease impacting its gastro-intestinal track.

While overfeeding to the point of obesity can be detrimental, an "Atkins"-based diet in cancer patients may prove beneficial. Since cancer cells are fueled by simple sugars, a diet low in these and higher in protein and fat may help slow down the malignant cells. "Feline patients are usually already on a diet that is low in carbohydrates and high in protein," explains Dr. Wypij, "so I usually do not recommend much change for them." But she does mention that the addition of fatty acid supplements containing omega-3 fatty acids can help.

One nutritional additive that is frequently administered to chemotherapy patients is probiotics. Because the cocktail of drugs often alter the growth of the normal bacteria in the intestines, probiotics (or healthy bacterial microorganisms) are often helpful to maintain a healthy gastro-intestinal system.

As far as preventing cancer in your pet, there is no simple answer. But Dr. Wypij does have one general recommendation, "Maintain your pet's health like you would a person's--provide them with a balanced diet, plenty of exercise, try to keep them slim, and limit exposure to toxins such as second-hand smoke."

Although it is nearly impossible to prove that one specific factor will always cause cancer, the research is clear in one category: pets that are overweight are more likely to develop health problems than pets kept at a healthy weight.

Since Fido doesn't usually experience the unfortunate situation of putting on a pair of jeans, only to realize they button only on an inhale, if you want your pet to stay trim, it's up to you!

For more information on nutrition and cancer, contact your local veterinarian.

<http://vetmed.illinois.edu/petcolumns/>

# United Egg Producers Executive Warns About HSUS Effort

By Carol Stender [cstender@agrinews.com](mailto:cstender@agrinews.com)

WILLMAR, Minn. —Imagine exporting Minnesota-grown corn and soybeans to Brazil, Mexico or China to feed livestock and then having the meat and eggs shipped back to the U.S. for consumption. The scenario is not far from reality, said Chad Gregory at the 2010 Strategic Animal Ag Conference in Willmar Jan. 15.

Gregory, United Egg Producers senior vice president, said PETA and the Humane Society of the United States are targeting organizations like Gregory's.

PETA and HSUS are not interested in humane conditions for animals, but in conflict and cash, he said. HSUS has a \$131 million revenue source while the U.S. Egg Producers has \$2.5 million with eight employees.

Gregory says the goal of the two organizations is to ban all slaughter within the U.S., to stop all hunting and fishing, close zoos and stop all human research use of animals. "They have made the egg industry their pinata," he said.

Minnesota Farm Bureau recently met with Paul Shapiro, HSUS factory farm campaign director, Gregory said. Following Gregory's presentation, MFB president Kevin Paap confirmed the meeting took place. It was called by Shapiro who asked the state Farm Bureau to support a halt to tail docking of cattle. Paap said he told Gregory no such action would come from the county organizations.

HSUS is working in Minnesota, but, unlike some states, no petition drives can bring a proposition to the ballot, he said.

The United Egg Producers, working with poultry researchers on a science-based certification program, created the United Egg Producers Certified Program. The program covers everything from beak trimming to space in cages to cage configuration. Annual audits are conducted by the USDA-AMS and Validus, a private firm. More than 80 percent of the U.S. egg laying industry participates in the program, he said.

Such quality assurance programs mean little to PETA and HSUS whose number one mission is to eliminate crates for pigs and veal and cages for chickens, he said.

HSUS is often confused with local animal shelters but animal shelters have no affiliation with HSUS, he said.

The organizations have been involved in state initiatives to move their agenda. There are 24 states that allow citizens to collect signatures to get measures on the ballot. It's how California's Proposition 2 was initiated. The proposition calls for animals being given the ability to stand up, sit down, turn around and extend limbs without touching anything.

United Egg Producers raised \$10 million to fight the proposition and used it up in six months, he said. UEP lost the fight. Many producers in the fifth largest egg producing state will be out of business by 2015, he said.

Gregory believes HSUS will eventually take the measure to Washington, D.C.

There's concern that 24 states allow petition drives to bring measures to ballot.



And what would happen if cages were banned? About 15 million more hens would be needed to produce the same number of eggs because mortalities double in cage-free environments, he said. It would also require 1 million additional acres of corn and soybean production.

"More egg farmers would simply go out of business," he said. "Cheaper eggs could be produced in China, Brazil and Mexico," he said. "There are additional questions of food safety, the environment and the cost of food."

It's already happened in Europe, Gregory said. A decade ago, a German egg producer told UEP not to let what happened to them, happen in the United States as increased regulations have forced many producers there to leave the business.

"The German egg industry used to be the shining star," he said. "Today 65 percent of all eggs purchased are produced outside the country because of ridiculous animal welfare regulations."

In 2007, the U.S. also became a net importer of food. "We have tried to be more pro-active as a result," he said.

UEP is working with other ag organizations in a coalition building to fight HSUS, he said.

Source: <http://www.agrinews.com/>

## **Alliance Urges Missourians Not to Sign Petitions**

A ballot proposal has been approved for circulation by the Missouri Secretary of State that poses a threat to all animal agriculture. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is targeting Missouri dog breeders in a veiled attempt to regulate animal agriculture in Missouri.

"The HSUS is a known quantity among the agriculture community," said Sharon Oetting, a Missouri Pork Producer and Missouri Farm Family Agriculture Alliance (MFFAA) spokesperson. "The HSUS is anti-animal agriculture and anti-farmer. Their own mission statement notes that they want to end livestock production and consumption. This proposal is less about the welfare of animals and more about achieving their stated goals, which is dangerous for Missouri's agribusiness industry and poses an even bigger threat to the price and availability of food. In the next four decades, worldwide food needs will double while the land mass to produce that food will continue to shrink. Additionally, threats posed by groups such as HSUS, create another type of risk to that food supply. Missouri has effective rules and regulations in place that regulate dog breeders. It is important to remember, this ballot initiative is less about protecting puppies and more about setting a dangerous precedent for animal agriculture. Today's farmers are committed to the care and well being of all of their animals and strive to provide them with the best possible care and environment."

The Missouri Department of Agriculture regulates the dog breeding industry in the state. While every industry may have a bad example, there are no better stewards of animal welfare than the kennel owners themselves who care deeply for their animals and treat them with compassion and integrity – it is the right thing to do and the economical thing to do. The MFFAA encourages the support of the local humane society and local animal shelters.

“We’re asking agriculture supporters to stand together and say no to HSUS,” said Oetting. “Dog owners will be first, but all animal agriculture is at risk of being targeted and so are the surrounding Midwestern agriculture states. The strength of Missouri’s agriculture industry is in all of our best interests. If a petition circulator asks you to sign this act, please tell them ‘NO’ and that you stand with Missouri farmers and support agriculture.”

### Missouri Farm Family Agriculture Alliance

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<http://www.moagriculture.com>

## Rockingham County NC Proposed Animal Ordinance Draws Fire



The Rockingham County planning commission recently drafted a proposal to regulate county animal owners.

The new/expanded definition of a commercial kennel would not distinguish between types of dogs owned, purpose of ownership, or function of kennel; grooming facilities, boarding kennels, hunting kennels, breeding kennels, rescue, and owners of multiple pets would all be reclassified and subject to harsh, impossible regulations.

New regulations would include requirements for parking, kennel buildings, sanitation control methods, property setbacks, buffered areas, 8-foot perimeter fencing, screening to hide kennel from all points of view, wetlands determination and appropriate vegetative buffers.

Regulations would even be imposed on property zoned RA (Agricultural Use).

Proposed regulations would classify anyone with 6-10 animals as a private kennel. Anyone with more than 10 animals would be classified as a commercial kennel. Both types of kennels require all animals to be kept within completely screened and fenced area, and caps commercial kennels at 25 outside dogs. Submission of a site plan showing buildings, sanitation control measures, property setbacks, parking access, buffers, and fencing would be required to obtain a special permit to operate a kennel.

Over 100 county residents attended the public hearing on January 19 to oppose this outrageous, unwarranted, and costly legislation.

The proposed ordinance was sent back to the planning department for revision. We trust this radical legislation will be abandoned as it does not deserve further consideration.

### ***Protecting your right to responsibly own and breed animals.***

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*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)*

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