



City Of Lenoir High Volume Breeder Ordinance

The City of Lenoir has amended their animal ordinance with definitions and regulations covering High Volume Breeders and High Volume Retailers. Per the Planning Director, Chuck Beatty, the ordinance was approved by the Lenoir City Council following a public hearing on April 3, 2012. The City then scheduled a second public hearing for April 17 for a Zoning Ordinance amendment that would only allow high volume dog breeders and retailers where commercial kennels are currently located, in the City's General Business, Limited Business, and Heavy Industrial zoning districts.

In other words anyone meeting the new definition of HV Breeder or HV Retailer can no longer reside in areas zoned for residential use.

The zoning ordinance hearing has been rescheduled for May 1, 2012, 6 PM, Lenoir City-County Chambers, 905 West Avenue, Lenoir, NC.

New High Volume Breeder/Retailer Definitions:

High-volume dog breeder: Any breeder who, during any calendar year maintains more than five or more intact female dogs. A veterinarian who provides whelping services within a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, and has no ownership interest in the bitch, is not included in this definition.

High-volume dog retailer: Any person who sells, resells or transfers ownership of more than 30 dogs during any calendar year, including sale, resale and transfer of dogs to pet stores, breeders, kennels and dealers, and sale, resale, and transfer that occur via the Internet.

The definition of high-volume dog breeder does not mention any breeding taking place, puppies, or the age of the intact female. This definition would therefore include someone who owns 5 or more intact females but does not breed them. The definition would also include intact females literally at birth and geriatric dogs – ages before and after reproductive capability.

It is highly discriminatory that the owner of 5 or more intact dogs is subjected to home inspection, five pages of animal care regulations, and also restricted from residing in a residential zoned area whereas the owner of 5 or more spayed/neutered dogs has no comparable restrictions.

High-volume dog retailer is defined as any person who sells, resells or transfers ownership of more than 30 dogs during any calendar year. This is a relatively small number for the average rescue group. Anyone assisting in rescue that holds a dog even overnight could potentially have that dog counted toward the "30". That number breaks down to just a little more than 2 dogs sold, transferred, handled per month.

If the definition of “person” extends to organizations that do not have one facility but pool resources by utilizing a foster system of private individuals keeping rescued dogs in their homes until adopters can be found, then this becomes increasingly complicated. Most animal rescue groups are responsible for the rehoming / relocation of several hundred purebred and mixed-breed dogs every year, arranging for full vetting, health certificates and transportation to new owners, in and out of our state. It is completely unrealistic and unfair to burden foster homes with this list of commercial facility mandates. Larger rescue organizations with facilities at one location and pet shops would already be licensed and inspected by NC Department of Agriculture and therefore this regulation is a duplicate effort.

The ordinance seeks to separate and punish a small class of dog owners from all other dog owners in the city. This class of dog owners with intact bitches should not be compelled to follow higher, more complicated, and more expensive standards than anyone else who owns a dog. All dog owners should provide humane care and treatment whether they own just one dog or twenty and there are adequate existing laws that can be enforced to ensure this.

NCRAOA urges dog breeders to oppose proposed changes to the City Zoning Ordinance. Also request the City Council place the High Volume Breeder/Retailer Ordinance back on the agenda for reconsideration.

Contact Lenoir City Council members: <http://tinyurl.com/7o9nrdj>

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. HSUS has turned its lobbying focus on North Carolina and is intensifying its campaign to widely regulate and inspect dog breeders in our state. 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.

Humane Tethering & Penning

Animal activists would have the general public believe that tethering is inherently cruel. This is due in part to a desire to humanize dogs and convince the public that it is impossible for any dog to be happy unless it lives in the house.

Activists use only the worst examples of chained dogs in heart wrenching, emotional displays, posters, websites, and lobbying materials for anti-chaining campaigns. The physical act of chaining or tethering itself is not cruel. Rather it is the deliberate and uncaring act of the owner chaining the dog improperly and failing to provide necessary shelter and sustenance that is the cruel act. Anyone capable of such cruelty does not even need a chain, but can inflict misery on a dog locked in a shed, crated inside the house, or penned and forgotten.

The goal of the anti-tethering lobby is to spread enough misinformation about tethering until all people automatically believe that tethering in any form is animal cruelty.

The more restrictions these animal rights lobbying groups, such as the Coalition to Unchain Dogs, PETA, and HSUS, can devise to upset animal management practices the more difficult it becomes for professionals, hobbyists, hunters, and dog owners in general to continue their activities.

Tethering Facts

Tethering can be the safest method of controlling a hard to contain animal. There are dogs that can escape from anything. They can chew through fencing and even chain link, break out windows, open doors, climb or dig under fences, and destroy wire and plastic shipping crates in seconds. These dogs can only be contained securely (and humanely) with a well thought out tether system.

A dog in a 10 X 10 ft kennel has 100 feet of play room. A dog on a 10 ft tether has 360 ft of play room; a dog on a 20 ft tether has 1256 ft of play room

Tethering is a primary means of control and training of hunting dogs; sled dogs, and dogs that compete in weight pull competition.

Some communities may restrict fencing or have regulations in place regarding type and height which may make them unsuitable for containment.

Cornell Study: The purpose of this study was to determine whether tethering was detrimental to the dogs’ welfare. The study charted a wide range of behaviors, and noted those behaviors and the increase or decrease of such in a pen and on a tether. Their conclusion, “There was no indication that tethering was more detrimental to the dogs’ welfare than housing in a pen.” Further they stated that tethered dogs did not exhibit more stereotypic behaviors, believed to be an indicator of animal welfare. *Yeon Seong C., Golden Glen, Sung Wailani, Erb Hollis N, Reynolds Arleigh J, Houpt Katherine A Comparison of Tethering and Pen Confinement of Dogs Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science 2001 4(4)257-270*

Read more - download the brochure - <http://ncraoa.com/PDF/Tethering/TetheringPenning.pdf>

Coronavirus in California Shelter Cats

April 2, 2012. Final report, Winn grant W10-036, a [Bria Fund](#) project

Molecular prevalence and viral load of replicating feline coronavirus in the bloodstream of healthy shelter cats in southern California

Investigators: Pedro Paulo Diniz, Yvonne Drechsler, Linda Kidd, Frank Bossong, Ellen Collisson; Western University of Health Science, Pomona, CA

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) remains a serious disease affecting cats, and while much remains unknown, research supported by Winn Feline Foundation is helping to shed light on this enigmatic disease. One of the major challenges of FIP is often the diagnosis; since a diagnosis of FIP is currently essentially a death sentence, accurate appraisal is vital. Unfortunately, the disease often presents with vague signs, and laboratory testing seldom offers any conclusive information. FIP is associated with feline coronavirus infection. However, the majority of cats infected with this virus never suffer any significant disease; thus, testing for the virus in suspected cases is also inconclusive, regardless of the result.

In order to better understand all parameters associated with disease production, these researchers wanted to examine characteristics of virus infection in otherwise healthy cats. Perhaps distinctions from those suffering from FIP could be identified to aid diagnosis. To do this, they assessed the amount of virus actually replicating in the blood of over 200 shelter cats in California.

Interestingly, they found that the incidence of actual replicating virus was quite low in the blood, even in cats that were actively shedding virus in their feces. The level of viral replication in cats with FIP is frequently fairly high, but in healthy cats, at least in the population tested by these investigators, actively replicating virus in the blood is quite low despite known infection. Thus, detecting high levels of replicating virus in the blood may be a useful diagnostic tool for FIP cases, and would allow distinction of harmless coronavirus infection from FIP. In order to validate these results, the investigators plan to test all cats for the presence of antibodies to the virus which would provide a picture of how prevalent infection, past or present, is among this population. [MK]

Source: Cat Health News from Winn Feline Foundation

Cats: Nutrition And Lifestyle Choices

March 22, 2012. [Zoran DL and Buffington CAT. Effects of nutrition choices and lifestyle changes on the well-being of cats, a carnivore that has moved indoors. J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2011; 239: 596-606.](#)

Cats have lived on the outer edges of human society for many thousands of years. However, domestication has changed cats relatively little. Diet options for cats in the wild have included consumption of small mammals, birds, and insects. These are meat or protein-based diets that contain little carbohydrate. Cats, as a species, are strictly carnivorous. In many societies, they have been removed from their former free-roaming, active existence to a captive, indoor, sedentary one. They have also gone from consuming frequent, small meals of animals they could catch and kill to consuming prepared diets of human choosing.

Cats have specific requirements for certain nutrients, such as arachidonic acid, vitamins A and D and many B vitamins (niacin in particular), and the amino acids taurine, and arginine, which cannot be endogenously synthesized in large enough amounts to meet their needs. They have a very distinct need for large amounts of dietary protein that sets them apart from other mammals. This need becomes very important when cats are not eating well, are consuming diets containing poor-quality protein, or not consuming a sufficient amount of dietary protein to meet their needs. Too long a time period with inadequate protein intake can result in various abnormalities. These abnormalities include loss of muscle mass, abnormal energy metabolism, and reduced or poor immune function, reduced protein available for structural repair, and abnormal function of critical metabolic pathways.

Protein intake is being looked at closely in the composition of diets fed to achieve weight loss. The amount of protein intake in relationship to carbohydrate and fat intake is also being studied in other conditions such as urolithiasis, inflammatory bowel disease, and diabetes mellitus. It is important to note that although meeting basic nutritional needs is necessary for maintenance of health and well-being of cats, it may not be sufficient in itself to assure a healthy existence. [VT]

Source: *Cat Health News from Winn Feline Foundation*

Feral Pigs Pick Up Nasty Bacteria That Can Pass to People

By [Mark Johnson](#) of the Journal Sentinel

A new study, published in the [Journal of Wildlife Diseases](#), reveals the first positive tests for the bacteria *Brucella suis* which can be passed to people. The bacteria is thought to pass from pigs to people through unsafe butchering and consumption of undercooked meat. In people, the bacteria can lead to brucellosis, which includes persistent flu-like symptoms.

Tests found that in Johnston County, North Carolina about 9% of the feral pigs surveyed showed exposure to *Brucella suis*. The exposure rate was less than 1% at 13 other sites across the state.

"Now that exposure to *Brucella suis* has been found in North Carolina's feral pig populations, people need to take care when hunting, butchering and cooking feral pigs," said Chris DePerno, an associate professor of forestry and environmental resources at North Carolina State University. "That means wearing gloves when field dressing feral pigs and cooking the meat to the proper temperature."

Story and video <http://tinyurl.com/7ra5qzt>

Dog Scouts of America Have Troops in 22 States

Dogs are not required to earn badges beyond the first one, for basic obedience and appropriately called the Dog Scout badge.

They've got badges and campouts, cookie drives and troops in 22 states. The Dog Scouts of America even has a motto or two as the half-human, half-hound organization goes about the business of doing good deeds. One of the first badges for Jasper, a 3-year-old collie-lab mix, was disaster preparedness. After all, he lives with Robert and Misti Verdahl in Milpitas, southeast of San Francisco, where you have to be aware of earthquakes and other natural disasters.

Jasper and his humans belong to Troop 198 in Santa Clara and have earned 18 badges altogether. Each, the humans said, has made him a better dog. "We go outside and I know he's going to be safe," Verdahl said. "If there's an emergency, I know he will listen to me."

There are 682 Dog Scouts who belong to 38 troops across the country. The organization has around 80 badges, but not all dogs can earn all badges, said DSA President Chris Puls of Brookville, Ind.

Story at link: <http://tinyurl.com/6pkguh8>

Learn more about Dog Scouts <http://dogscouts.org/>

Scientists Work to Outsmart Overactive Immune Systems

By Alex Jimenez. It's no secret that dogs and cats have extraordinary immune systems. Like many animals, they are biologically engineered to fight off an array of diseases caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi and more. However, for cats and dogs affected by the mysterious and often fatal disease known as immune-mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA), a relentless immune system can quickly become a pet's own worst enemy. More common in dogs, IMHA is a condition in which the immune system of an affected animal attacks and kills its own red blood cells. The devastating disorder—also known as AIHA (autoimmune hemolytic anemia)—results in the death of more than 50 percent of affected animals. In many cases, the animal dies within weeks of diagnosis.

To make matters worse, very little is known about why IMHA occurs. The disease is so complex that more than 70 percent of the diagnosed cases are idiopathic, meaning there is no identifiable underlying cause. But all hope is not lost. By funding studies that bring together some of the most current research on IMHA, Morris Animal Foundation is shedding new light on this elusive disease.

FIGHTING BACK. In a study at Cornell University, principal investigator Dr. Tracy Stokol and her team made significant progress toward uncovering the cause of blood clot formation (thrombosis) in dogs affected with IMHA. Blood clots occur frequently in dogs with IMHA and often lead to fatal complications. Typically, IMHA treatment involves blood transfusions, the number depending on the disease's severity. Transfusions can effectively replenish red blood cells, but they can also increase the risk that a dog will form a fatal blood clot. Dr. Stokol wants to decrease the risk.

“Preventing clot formation can increase the likelihood that dogs will survive IMHA,” she states. In her research, Dr. Stokol tested three inflammation-related proteins for their association with a protein called tissue factor, the primary trigger in blood clotting. Although two proteins were proven not to have any associations with tissue factor, C-reactive protein showed a very high correlation. Future research will work to confirm this.

NEW TREATMENTS. Foundation-funded researchers at the University of Minnesota are also addressing the issue of blood clots. However, instead of trying to find out why blood clots form, they are working toward developing new treatments. The principal investigator, Dr. David Polzin, is comparing the effectiveness of aspirin with use of individually adjusted doses of the anticoagulant drug heparin to increase survival rates in dogs with IMHA. Although the research is still in mid-stride, Dr. Polzin hypothesizes that heparin treatments could yield some game-changing results. “This could mean a new standard therapy for IMHA cases, inevitably taking the field of veterinary science a step closer to reducing mortality rates,” says Dr. Polzin. “And that's what it's all about.”

DISCOVERING HOPE. It's thanks to studies like these that there is some glimmer of hope in the battle against this terrible disease. However, these efforts would not be possible if it weren't for donors like the Meisha's Hope AIHA/IMHA Fund #338. Created in memory of Meisha—a dog that through rigorous treatment defied all odds and lived 10 years past her diagnosis of IMHA—the fund is dedicated to backing IMHA-specific research. More research is needed to give IMHA-affected dogs the chance to live as long as Meisha did. Morris Animal Foundation appreciates support from Meisha's Hope and other causes like it as we work toward making that a reality. *Source: Morris Animal Foundation*

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.

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