



National Monument for Military Working Dog Teams

The first national monument to pay tribute to military dogs will be unveiled in California in just two months. The U.S. Working Dog Teams National Monument will honor every dog that has served in combat since World War II. The monument depicts the modern military handler and four dogs — a Doberman, German shepherd, Labrador retriever and Belgian Malinois — all breeds used in wars.

The silicon bronze handler stands more than 9 feet tall and weighs 1,500 pounds. Each dog is about 5 feet tall and weighs 550 pounds. The figures will stand on a pedestal, in front of a large granite wall. One side of the wall will have photos etched in black marble veneer showing dog teams in combat from the different wars.

The public will get a sneak peak of the monument at the Tournament of Roses parade in Pasadena on Jan. 1, when a floral replica will be used as Natural Balance's float. When the float goes on display afterward at Victory Park, the real bronze monument will make its public debut next to it. Then the bronze monument will go on tour as it heads to its permanent home at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Lackland AFB is the home of the 341st Training Squadron responsible for training Military Working Dog Teams of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard since 1958. It is also home of the new Department of Defense Military Working Dog (MWD) Veterinary Service Hospital.



Stubby wearing his "blanket of military awards"

World War I – Sergeant Stubby

Although the United States military did not have a War Dog program in place during WWI, there were plenty of military mascot dogs in the trenches with the American troops. The most famous was a dog named Stubby, described as either a pit bull or bull terrier, that became the first American War Dog Hero, the most decorated war dog of World War I, and the only dog to be promoted to sergeant through combat.

Stubby's first battle injury was from gas exposure. He was nursed to health in a field hospital, but his near death experience made him very sensitive to the smell of gas. A few weeks later the Germans launched an early morning gas attack. The men in Stubby's trench were sleeping. Stubby sniffed the air and then quickly ran through the trench barking and biting at the sleeping soldiers. Stubby's alert saved many soldiers from injury.

Stubby was an expert in locating wounded men in the "no man's land" between the trenches of the opposing armies. Stubby would listen for injured men shouting in English. He would then run to them and bark for the paramedics.

One day, while on patrol in no man's land, Stubby heard a noise coming from a small patch of brush. He went to investigate and found a German spy making a map of the allied trenches. The German soldier called Stubby to him but it didn't work. Stubby started barking. The German began to run and Stubby took off after him, biting at his legs causing him to trip and fall. Stubby attacked the German's arms and finally bit and held onto his rear-end. When the allied soldiers arrived on the scene they realized Stubby had captured a spy.

After the Armistice, Stubby met President Woodrow Wilson during his visit with the 102nd Infantry in France on Christmas Day 1918. Stubby became an American folk hero and participated in many parades, war bond rallies, and hospital visits. Stubby was rewarded for his service with many military service medals, badges, patches and a promotion to sergeant.



In 1921, General John J. Pershing awarded a gold medal to Sgt. Stubby. That same year, Sgt. Stubby visited the White House to meet President Harding and again in 1924 to meet President Coolidge. Sgt. Stubby died on March 16, 1926. His remains are preserved at the Smithsonian Institution.

Public Perception of Feral Cats

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[Loyd KAT and Hernandez SM. Public perceptions of domestic cats and preferences for feral cat management in the southeastern United States. Anthrozoos. 2012; 25: 337-51.](#)

Millions of feral cats exist in the United States and their management is the subject of debate. Strategies range from euthanasia of these cats to trap-neuter-release programs which have been implemented in many urban areas of the country. Awareness and understanding of public attitudes and preferences for control of these feral cat populations will aid in development of management strategies. These investigators used an anonymous internet survey of randomly selected residents of Georgia.

From the article: "Results indicate that more residents have positive experiences with feral cats than negative, cat owners have greater knowledge of cats than non-cat owners, and animal welfare or conservation organization membership has a significant effect on attitudes towards cats. A majority of survey respondents agreed that more effective feral cat management is needed yet did not approve of trap-neuter-release (TNR) legislation recently passed in Athens-Clarke County.residents' attitudes were found to be more important than experiences or knowledge in supporting cat management legislation. Cat sanctuaries were found to be the most acceptable option to reduce feral cat populations (56%), followed by TNR (49%) and capturing and euthanizing cats (44%)." [MK]

See also: Peterson MN, Hartis B, Rodriguez S, Green M and Lepczyk CA. Opinions from the front lines of cat colony management conflict. PLoS ONE. 2012; 7: e44616. [\[free, full text article\]](#)

Source: Winn Feline Foundation

AKC Canine Health Foundation Grants

A trio of researchers from NC State University's College of Veterinary Medicine were among the recipients of 17 research grants totaling \$1.7 million awarded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation's Oak Grant program.

Cardiology. [Dr. Kate Meurs](#), professor and associate dean for research and graduate studies, received \$51,516 for her study, "Identification of Genetic Modifiers That Impact Clinical Expression of Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy in the Boxer Dog."

Oncology. [Dr. Matthew Breen](#), professor of genomics, received \$131,265 for his study, "Identification of Diagnostic DNA Copy Number Aberrations in Canine Leukemia."

Renal Disease. [Dr. Shelly Vaden](#), professor of internal medicine, received \$116,184 for her study, "Regenerative Medicine Approaches to the Treatment of Urinary Incontinence."

The 17 research grants -- several with a One Medicine/ One Health focus -- were awarded to 13 institutions and universities.

"Naturally occurring disease in dogs is emerging as the most rigorous model for breakthroughs in treatments and therapies," said Shila Nordone, the foundation's chief scientific officer. "One Health, One Medicine allows us to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease while simultaneously supporting human health."

Since being founded in 1995, Canine Health Foundation, which is funded by the AKC, Nestlé Purina PetCare and Pfizer Animal Health, among others, has invested more than \$29 million in canine health research. Last year, the AKC-CHF program awarded \$1.5 million through 21 grants to 14 institutions. For more information on AKC-CHF research support at NC State CVM, watch the video at <http://tinyurl.com/bkvf3ef>

Florida Judge Dismisses Emotional Damage Suit

October 31, 2012. A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit a local couple, Lauren and Roy Glass, filed against the City of St. Petersburg after a police officer shot their aging golden retriever to death a year ago. U.S. District Judge Richard A. Lazzara issued an order just hours after the Assistant City Attorney filed a motion to dismiss the case. Lazzara's order indicated that parts of it were not clear enough and did not follow all the pleading requirements for federal courts. However, Glass will be allowed to revise and refile the complaint.

The Glass family decided to sue the city after Boomer was shot and killed Oct. 1, 2011, by St. Petersburg Officer Misty Swanson, who got a call of an aggressive dog that night. The city then opted to have the case moved to federal court, because part of the Glass' argument was that their rights under the Fourth and 14th amendments were violated.

Glass, a St. Petersburg attorney, believes he and his family should be compensated for the grief suffered by the dog's death. In his petition Glass referred to several scientific studies on the relationships between humans and their pets, then alleges the examples "...demonstrate that the bond between a companion animal and a human animal is real and capable of empirical study and analysis. In addition, the human-animal bond is recognized to have financial business implications, as well as personal emotional influence." Glass and his family hope their lawsuit will change the way Florida law views pets only as property. *Sources: MyFoxTampaBay; Tampa Bay times*

Exotic Animal Owners File Suit Against The State Of Ohio

Suit was filed today in the Eastern District of the United States District Court today for an injunction against the Ohio Exotic Animal Ban and for violating Constitutional rights of owners to have their property taken away without compensation.

COLUMBUS, OH, November 04, 2012 /24-7PressRelease/ -- Despite the pressure from the Humane Society of the United States, Sheriff Lutz of Zanesville, Ohio, and many other animal rights groups, the exotic animal community from all around the Nation united and said they have had enough of the laws being pushed through to take their rights away from them in regards to owning exotic animals.

On November 2, 2012, a federal suit was filed along with filing for a temporary injunction in the United States District Court For The Southern District Of Ohio, Eastern Division. (See full suit here http://www.usza.us/Downloads/Complaint_Exotic_Animal_Ban.pdf) Together with the OAAO, President Victoria Galle and Herplobby President, Terry Wilkins, leading the suit filed in Ohio, funds were donated by members of the United States Zoological Association, Feline Conservation Federation, Simion Society Association and the Herplobby Reptile Club along with people all over that aren't even exotic animals owners. Together they say enough is enough and they are starting with Ohio and intend on filing suits in every State that attempts to take the rights away from tax paying citizens.

The Federal suit filed claims the animal owners Constitutional rights are being violated to own their private property by the State of Ohio being able to seize their property without compensation, along with being forced to join certain political organizations, being forced to perform invasive and dangerous procedures on their animals.

The State, City or Federal Government can not make anyone join a private non profit organization to be exempt from any law, which is creating an illegal monopoly. The law in Ohio and many other States and Cities exempt people and zoos with an AZA (American Zoological Association) accreditation, which is nothing more than a private club for exotic animals and discriminates against any other organization. This is the first time the animal owners have taken a stand against this kind of law and in the following months and years you will see many other states getting sued for the same practice according to exotic animal owners.

Joe Schreibvogel, President of the United States Zoological Association says, "They would not listen to the people who's lives were affected during the hearings in early 2012, but instead they listened to a bunch of people that had absolutely nothing to lose from it. Those people were the Animal Rights representatives whose agenda is to take away people's pets and their rights to keep them. I flew out there 3 times to watch people pour their hearts out to empty chairs while the lawmakers went to other meetings due to already having their minds made up. Maybe they will listen in court now that the people have taken a stand," Schreibvogel says.

The United States Zoological Association is the only organization that represents all species of animals and their owners whether it be private, zoo or sanctuary. The organization applauds OAAO for their work in Ohio and is rallying a National fundraising campaign to gear up for what comes next at exotic animal owners for 2013. If you would like to join and help the fight to keep your rights, you can do so at www.usza.us.

For more information contact the OAAO or the USZA.

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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