



NC Legislature Adjourns

The HSUS backed “puppy mill” bill, H930, introduced by Rep. Jason Saine (R-Lincoln) and supported by Speaker Thom Tillis and First Lady Ann McCrory, passed the House and was assigned to Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources. The legislature adjourned July 26th with no further action on H930. The bill is eligible to be considered in the short session which begins May 14, 2014.

The poorly drafted bill would open anyone who owns/co-owns ten intact female dogs to regulation regardless of whether the dogs are bred or any sales are made. The bill would improperly label dog owners as commercial businesses causing them to be in violation of local ordinances. In addition, H930 places interpretive “standards”, such as “assessing a dog’s health daily”, into criminal law where each violation would be a criminal offense subject to prosecution as animal cruelty.

Bill Assisting Shelters, Protecting Dogs Heads to Governor

AKC Press Center. The North Carolina Senate unanimously approved the House amendments to Senate Bill 626, a bill that will assist shelters and improve the lives of dogs in North Carolina.

Senate Bill 626 would help relieve overcrowding at shelters and reunite lost pets with their owners by making several positive changes, including improving enforcement by moving the regulations to the state's animal welfare act.

In reviewing SB 626, a bill sponsored by North Carolina State Senators Floyd B. McKissick, Jr., Brent Jackson, Wesley Meredith and Mike Woodard, AKC Government Relations noticed that current North Carolina shelter law stated only that shelters that have access to microchip scanners "may" use them in order to help locate owners of animals taken into custody.

The American Kennel Club worked with several NC Senators who sponsored the bill to ensure that shelters that have access to microchip scanners are now required to scan a pet for a microchip and utilize that information to help reunite the animal with its owner. It would not require all shelters to have scanners, but simply require them to be used by those shelters that have one.

In support of the amendment, American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR), pledged up to 20 universal microchip scanners to public shelters in North Carolina that otherwise could not afford them. In the last four years, AKC CAR has already donated more than 160 scanners to North Carolina shelters to help reunite lost dogs with their owners. North Carolina shelters interested in universal scanners can visit www.akccar.org/nccares to learn more.

The bill was further amended in the House of Representatives to allow animal control officers, firefighters, rescue squad workers, and state-appointed animal cruelty investigators to enter motor vehicles in circumstances where there is probable cause that the animal confined in the vehicle is in circumstances that are likely to endanger or cause injury, suffering, or death. A reasonable effort must first be made to locate the owner or person responsible for the animal.

Long Term Immunity to Rabies Vaccination in Cats

Jas D, Coupier C, Toulemonde CE, Guigal PM and Poulet H. Three-year duration of immunity in cats vaccinated with a canarypox-vectored recombinant rabies virus vaccine. *Vaccine*. 2012; 30: 6991-6.

Rabies continues to be a threat not only to pets, but to people around the world as well. Prevention of rabies in cats continues to be important for reducing the risk of transmission to humans. A non-adjuvanted rabies vaccine with a one-year duration of immunity claim is available for cats. The duration of immunity may be longer than one year, but has not been investigated until now. These researchers evaluated the level of immunity as determined by measurement of antibody levels to the rabies virus as well as challenge with the virus. Cats were evaluated after immunization as kittens, at one year of age, and three years after the one year booster. All cats were protected against rabies challenge three years after the last booster. This study shows a much longer duration of immunity from the non-adjuvanted canarypox-vectored vaccine than previously thought. [MK]

Source: Winn Feline Foundation <http://www.winnfelinehealth.org>

Mapping Armadillos in NC

Wildlife Commission Maps Armadillos' Expanding Range in North Carolina

RALEIGH, N.C. (Aug. 1, 2013) — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is asking the public to help document observations of nine-banded armadillos, as the bony-plated mammals expand their range in this state. The public may report observations of armadillos by contacting Extension Wildlife Biologist Ann May at 919-707-0068 or ann.may@ncwildlife.org.

The nine-banded armadillo is about the size of a house cat or opossum and it has a gray to brownish-gray body with narrow, jointed armor bands on its midsection. It feeds primarily on invertebrates, including insects, snails and earthworms. Depending on temperatures, the armadillo can be nocturnal, crepuscular or even active during the day. The first confirmed armadillo sighting in North Carolina occurred in 2008. The Wildlife Resources Commission allows armadillos to be hunted year-round with no bag limit. Armadillos can be trapped during the regulated trapping season.

“Whether armadillos continue spreading beyond their current range will be largely determined by climate,” said Colleen Olfenbittel, a Commission wildlife biologist. “Mild temperature conditions are good for armadillos. Since they lack thick insulation and must dig for most foods, freezing conditions can cause them to starve or freeze to death.”

Armadillos can carry – and transmit – leprosy. Although the number of armadillo-to-human transmitted cases is quite low, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Olfenbittel recommends minimizing exposure. “Just as you should wear gloves when handling any wild animal, you should wear gloves if you are handling a live or dead armadillo, or gardening in an area frequented by one, since its waste carries the bacteria that leads to leprosy,” Olfenbittel said. “Other than the slight disease risk, an armadillo is not dangerous.” <http://www.ncwildlife.org/News/NewsArticle/tabid/416/IndexID/9204/Default.aspx>

Study Examines Pet Retention Following Adoption

Research published by American Humane Association indicates that more than one in 10 animals adopted from animal shelters are no longer in their homes six months later. Based on this data and a comprehensive literature review, this could represent several hundred thousand animals each year that are given away, are lost, die, or abandoned to uncertain fates. The study is part of a major effort to determine why many healthy, adoptable pets are relinquished and reduce the numbers of animals euthanized each year before finding loving homes.

Phase I of the Keeping Pets (Dogs and Cats) in Homes Retention Study was structured to discern the reasons why so many Americans do not have a dog or cat in their homes.

Phase II will research how many dogs and cats acquired from a sampling of shelters and animal control agencies still remain in their new homes six months following adoption, and what happened to those pets who are no longer in those homes.

Phase III will review results to evaluate key issues and design a trial to test practical interventional strategies for improving retention rates following the acquisition of a new pet.

An online survey was created and administered to 1500 respondents in February 2012. Surveys were created and fielded for three groups of consumers who:

1. Never owned a dog or cat as an adult, “non-pet owners” (n=500)
2. Previously owned a cat but not within past 12 months (n=500)
3. Previously owned a dog but not within past 12 months (n=500)

PARTIAL LIST OF PHASE I FINDINGS:

- Obtaining the animal from family, a friend, or a neighbor was the most common method of acquisition for previous dog owners (38%) and cat owners (41%).
- About one-fourth of previous dog owners obtained their prior pet from a shelter or rescue organization (22%) and 4% were acquired as strays; for cat owners, 1% obtained their prior pet from a shelter or rescue organization and approximately one-fourth were acquired as strays (22%).
- The majority of previous dog owners (81%) and cat owners (73%) no longer have a dog or cat because it died or was euthanized. Of those who gave up their animals, the most common reason cited was that the landlord or place of residence did not allow dogs or cats. This was true for 29% of dog owners and 21% of cat owners.
- Potential dog owners are more likely to have children in the household (56%) vs. potential cat owners (36%).
- If a pet is to be considered in the future 64% of prospective owners who previously owned dogs indicated that they would adopt a dog from a shelter or rescue organization, and 56% of prospective owners who previously owned a cat indicated they would adopt a cat from a shelter or rescue organization.
- The most common reason cited to give away their cat (21%) or dog (29%) was because their landlord or place of residence did not allow dogs/cats.
- The second most common reasons cited for giving away previous pets were - Cats: Allergies (11%); Dogs: Not enough time (10%), Divorce/Death (10%), Behavior issues (10%), Chewing/destructive behavior and excessive barking are behavior issues with 24% of the dogs.

Post-adoption return-to-shelter rates for dogs and cats have been reported to be between 7 percent and 20 percent for the first six months following adoption. These numbers do not include pets who were lost, died, or were given away instead of being returned to the shelter. Thus, there could be several hundred thousand to more than a million cats and dogs obtained from shelters in the United States who exit homes prematurely each year. Phase II Study surveyed 572 people who had adopted dogs and cats six months earlier from six shelters in three cities—Charlotte, N.C.; Denver; and Fort Worth, Texas. Though many shelters encourage adopted pets to be returned if the match does not work, adopters may choose avenues other than return to the shelter if they give up the new pet; thus the actual number of pets remaining in their homes six months after adoption is likely less than what is reported by animal shelters.

PARTIAL LIST OF PHASE II FINDINGS:

- Retention rates ranged from 87 percent to 93 percent across the six study shelters, with no significant differences in retention rates by state, type of shelter, or shelter services. There were no differences in retention rates between dogs or cats, or between male or female pets.
- Nearly two-thirds of pets leaving the home within six months of adoption left within the first two months.
- Pets were more likely to be retained when owners sought advice from family, friends, or a veterinarian.
- Owners aged 25-34 had the highest percentage of retention of their adopted pets of any age group, followed closely by those aged 45-54.
- When owners ranked various concerns (e.g., cost, time commitment, health issues, behavioral issues) as high, pets were less likely to be retained than when such concerns were ranked lower or not present.
- There was no difference in retention between first-time pet owners and those with prior pet experience.
- There was no overall increase in the likelihood that a pet would have had a veterinary visit whether or not their owners had been offered a free exam.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON PET RETENTION ISSUES

New JC, Salman MD, King M, et al. (2000) Characteristics of Shelter-Relinquished Animals and Their Owners Compared with Animals and Their Owners in U.S. Pet-Owning Households, Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Research Science, 3(3), 179-201.

Miller, D.D., Staats, S.R., Partlo, C. and Rada, K. (1996) Factors associated with the decision to surrender a pet to an animal shelter. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 209,738-742.

Patronek, G.J., Glickman, L.T., Beck, A.M., McCabe, G.P. and Ecker, C. (1996) Risk factors for relinquishment of cats to an animal shelter. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 209, 582-588.

Shore, E. R. (2005). Returning a recently adopted companion animal: Adopters' reasons for and reactions to the failed adoption experience. Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science, 8(3), 187-198.

DiGiacomo, N., Arluke, A., & Patronek, G. (1998). Surrendering pets to shelters: The relinquisher's perspective.

National Council on Pet Population Study & Policy (NCPSP). Exploring the Surplus Cat and Dog Problem. Highlights of Five Research Publications Regarding Relinquishment of Pets.

Floridians Foot the Bill for HSUS Activism

In 2002, HSUS funded a ballot campaign in Florida to—for the first time—put animal rights in the state constitution. The campaign sought to ban individual maternity pens, the most commonly used method of housing pregnant pigs. While successful—there were hardly any pork producers in Florida—11 years later the vote has come back to bite voters.

A state appeals court has ruled in favor of a pig farmer who was awarded over \$500,000 as a result of the amendment campaign making his property useless. He was one of only two farmers in the state to use the maternity pens, and since the law made his investment useless, the court ruled that he is entitled to compensation.

Why would HSUS and its vegan buddies push a state constitutional amendment that would only affect two farmers in a state of 17 million people, you ask? This was not exactly a pressing public policy issue—certainly undeserving of a constitutional amendment. But that didn't matter. HSUS and its vegan pals were looking for a state with few pork farmers because it would be easier to ram through an amendment. (More recently, HSUS has been trolling the halls of state legislatures in Rhode Island and other low-pork-production states. It's all about appearance.)

And what happened to the animals on these two farms? Well, the farmers couldn't afford to make costly infrastructure changes. So they had to slaughter the animals. "As farmers, they've killed us, and as a result we have to kill the animals," said one in reaction to the vote.

We know that PETA kills animals. Is it fair to say that HSUS kills animals, too?

Interestingly, the aftermath of the campaign was marred in scandal. Farm Sanctuary, another vegan group that supported the campaign, was charged with 210 violations of state campaign finance laws. Farm Sanctuary allegedly had collected donations for the campaign while promising tax deductions, but donations to political campaigns are not tax-exempt. Farm Sanctuary eventually paid a \$50,000 fine.

Here's a memo to voters in any state where HSUS is trying to drive up farming costs—one way or the other, you'll have to pay for HSUS's activism, whether at the grocery store or through the tax coffers. And the animals might just pay with their lives. *Posted on 08/02/2013 at 5:28 pm by [Humane Watch](#) Team.*

Judge Orders State to Pay PETA's Legal Fees

Judge William Pittman in Wake County ordered NC Wildlife Resources Commission to pay nearly \$75,000 to PETA – repayment for legal fees in its battle over whether the town of Brasstown could lower a caged opossum 20 feet down to a stage at midnight Dec. 31. The box is lowered to the ground at midnight, and the possum is later released. Last year PETA had filed suit to stop the event which they claimed was unlawful and cruel.

Last year administrative Law Judge Fred Morrison ruled with PETA that the Wildlife Resources Commission could not issue a permit for the event – unless the legislature changed the law regarding display of a wild-caught opossum. A bill introduced this session and signed by Governor McCrory states animal cruelty punishments don't apply to a "licensed sportsman" taking a wild animal for display in "an annual, seasonal, or cultural event."

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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