



Exotic Animal Owners in Ohio Continue the Fight

The exotic animal law has been in effect since 2012. Since then, a group of owners have been opposing it through the courts. In the past year, the state has confiscated about 30 animals, which they house at the new state run facility in Reynoldsburg.

Exotic animal owners sued the state over the regulations, arguing that the law violates their free speech and free association rights, but lost. A three-judge panel of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati court ruled against the owners earlier this month. Now they are asking a federal appeals court to reconsider its decision that upheld the state's restrictions on exotic animals.

The new law requires owners to get a new state-issued permit by Jan. 1 of this year. They also must pass background checks, pay fees, obtain liability insurance or surety bonds and show they can properly contain and care for the animal.

Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study

April 4th, 2014. Morris Animal Foundation is conducting the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study that is enrolling 3,000 Goldens between 6 months and 2 years of age in the largest and longest study ever conducted to advance veterinary medicine for dogs. While a study of this magnitude has never been done before in dogs, similar studies in humans, such as the Framingham Heart Study and the Nurses' Health Study, have contributed a wealth of information that is improving and extending lives every day. These observational studies have provided invaluable information about human health. By gathering non-invasive samples and observational data over the lifetime of enrolled dogs, researchers hope to identify potentially modifiable risk factors for the development of cancer and other diseases that affect Goldens.

Although restricted to Goldens, results from this study will benefit all dogs, and maybe even human health. Many human medical research organizations have expressed an interest in the data, according to Haworth.

Golden retrievers were selected for the study because they are one of the most popular breeds of dog, and up to 60 percent of them will die of cancer. The study has 1,100 Goldens enrolled and is looking to fill the other 2,000 spots as soon as possible.

More than 70 million dogs live in the United States. Half of them over the age of 10 will die of cancer. In fact, cancer is the leading cause of death in dogs over the age of 2.

For more information or to register visit: <http://www.caninelifetimehealth.org/program/all/>

ALDF and PETA Lose Their Lawsuit in Florida

Animal Groups Lose Bid to Free Miami Seaquarium's Orca

A Florida federal judge tossed a case brought by animal rights groups claiming the U.S. Department of Agriculture was unlawfully renewing licenses at the Miami Seaquarium, ruling Tuesday that the agency had not abused its discretion.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund, Orca Network, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Inc. and other individual plaintiffs had challenged the USDA's decision to renew the license of the Miami Seaquarium — an intervenor in the case — under the Animal Welfare Act, alleging that the marine park has housed an orca whale in a small tank without the company of another orca. *Source: Law360*

Tennessee Commercial Breeder Act Expires in June

When the Commercial Breeder Act was enacted in 2009 the bill included a sunset date of June 30, 2014. The law requires licensure for any person who possesses 20 or more unsterilized adult female dogs or cats for the purpose of selling the offspring as companion animals.

According to the Office of Animal Welfare, this program currently has 20 licensed commercial breeders. The program is funded by licensure fee revenue and sales taxes collected through the sale of dogs and cats which are bred by licensed breeders. Licensure and tax fee revenue collected has not been adequate to fund the program. Legislation was introduced to extend the Act beyond the sunset date. According to the Fiscal Note, this program had a closing deficit of \$965,750 on June 30, 2013 and extending the program would result in an increase in recurring state expenditures estimated to be \$299,500, beginning in FY14-15.

The bill to continue the Commercial Breeder Act failed in Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources at the March 12 hearing.

300 Dead Birds, Animals Found In Home of SPCA Volunteer

New Jersey authorities went to the home of a volunteer who reportedly was heading animal cruelty investigations at the Monmouth County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MCSPCA) and found more than 300 dead birds, as well as the decomposing bodies of other animals that she took responsibility to rehabilitate but instead began hoarding. Various types of birds, including seagulls, pigeons, sparrows and doves, were found in addition to some dead rabbits and other mammals. Authorities found 18 live birds.

The woman volunteered at the MCSPCA as a rehabber, under the guidance of a rehabilitator licensed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish and Wildlife. She had been volunteering for the MCSPCA working with birds for more than 15 years.

Authorities said this is what happens to people that are well intended when they get overwhelmed.

According to tax records, the home is valued at \$900,000; at another property where the woman lived with her husband, authorities found an additional 60 animals.

The woman will be charged with animal cruelty as soon as investigators establish the total number of dead birds. *Sources: USA Today, New Jersey Star Ledger*

Animal Hoarding

The term "animal hoarding" refers to the compulsive need to collect and own animals for the sake of caring for them that results in accidental or unintentional neglect or abuse. Most hoarders of animals fall victim to their good intentions and end up emotionally overwhelmed, socially isolated, and ultimately alienated from family and friends. The problem causes immense suffering for both animals and people. It also creates great expense for local animal shelters and may require regional and national efforts to find homes for large numbers of animals.

Hoarders also have an intense emotional attachment to the animals in their care. Their behavior helps them avoid the pain of letting go of things that seem very special, even when the clutter prevents comfortable living. Many object hoarders believe that things should be saved for some special event, even though the event never happens. This is true for animal hoarders, too. They imagine the wonderful way in which they will heal love, and nurture their pets, while overlooking the terrible effects of having too many of them.

- Up to 40 percent of object hoarders also hoard animals.
- Eighty percent of animal hoarders have diseased, dying, or dead animals on the premises.
- Between 2 and 5 percent of the general population meets criteria for hoarding (both objects and animals).
- Every year 3,500 animal hoarders come to the attention of authorities.
- Animal hoarding crosses all socioeconomic boundaries.
- It is not uncommon for hoarders to present themselves as legitimate animal sheltering or rescue groups.

Studies on animal hoarders show that their behavior frequently begins after an illness, disability or death of a significant other, or another difficult life event such as a trauma during their youth. Clinical evaluations also indicate that animal hoarding is often associated with a wide variety of psychological disorders, and with the more severe disorders (e.g., borderline personality) in particular. It is quite common for animal hoarders to report very dysfunctional childhoods, characterized by inconsistent and absent parenting, and sometimes outright abuse, with animals as the only stable fixture. However, circumstances during intervening years between childhood trauma and deterioration into animal hoarding remain to be clarified.

Intervention in animal hoarding cases is almost always complex. There is no one universal solution. Each person comes in with a different history, a different set of circumstances and resources, unique medical and psychological diagnoses that may all affect what kind of intervention might work best.

Each type of hoarding will respond to or require different types of intervention approaches. For example, the overwhelmed caregiver is more likely to be responsive to a more therapeutically oriented approach in which conditions are improved by gradual downsizing and a moratorium on new animals so the number of animals present is compatible with the person's capacity to provide care. The law enforcement approach is by nature much more adversarial via enforcement of the anti-cruelty laws. In some cases, the environment may be so toxic and the person so resistant to improving conditions, no other option but forcible removal is available. Some states order psychiatric or psychological counseling for hoarders.

Little is really known about which kinds of therapy work best. There are very few psychologists, counselors, or psychiatrists who have any expertise in animal hoarding. That said, it is important that the therapist have experience diagnosing and treating a wide variety of disorders, since identifying any co-morbid conditions will be important for addressing the animal hoarding. It is believed that without some kind of long-term treatment and monitoring, that the chance that the behavior will return nears 100%.

Sources: Anxiety and Depression Association of America, ADAA (<http://www.adaa.org>); Animal Hoarding: What caseworkers need to know, Gary J. Patronek, VMD, PhD; International OCD Foundation

AKC Foundation Solicits Research Proposals

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation has issued a request for proposals for research on canine health. The foundation is calling for research proposals on dermatology and allergic skin disease, reproduction, musculoskeletal and neurologic systems, ophthalmology, general canine health and obesity, development of an accurate diagnostic assay for canine hypothyroidism, epilepsy, and risk assessment and management strategies to prevent transmission of infectious disease in dogs.

To date, AKC Canine Health Foundation has approved 17 research grants to 14 research institutions for 2014. These grants, totaling nearly \$1.5 million, will provide better treatments, more accurate diagnosis, and a deeper understanding of the causes of disease. See more at: <http://tinyurl.com/pzpfzqt>

County Posts Slide Show about Animal Shelter

Following a very visible public protest against the operations at Randolph County Animal Shelter, MiMi Cooper, public health director, gave commissioners an update on the facility on March 10. Since then, her slide presentation has been uploaded to the Randolph County Public Health Department website at co.randolph.nc.us/ph/ .

Protesters peacefully demonstrated in February against the use of CO2 gas chambers at the animal shelter. North Carolina allows the use of CO2 gas chambers under supervised conditions by trained operators. Cooper acknowledged that the county uses the chambers but, she said, it also uses its discretion to administer lethal injections.

Although demonstrators in February were respectful, Cooper and her staff have been subjected to threats of physical injury through social media and Internet sources. After hearing her presentation, County Commissioner Stan Haywood decried the abuse Cooper and her staff have been subjected to and asked for the county's IT staff to aid in getting the presentation online to "help educate the public" about what goes on at the shelter.

Full story: <http://tinyurl.com/k8zljhl>

HSUS Files to Dismiss Lawsuit against California Egg Law

Six states have filed a lawsuit against a California law that requires all eggs sold in the state to meet California cage size requirements. The lawsuit was filed by Alabama, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and the governor of Iowa. HSUS filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit claiming it is trying to force sub-standard eggs on California consumers. HSUS was the leader of a coalition for Proposition 2, a 2008 ballot initiative to end confinement of egg laying hens. California's Legislature then passed AB1437, which requires all shell eggs sold in California to meet the standards of Proposition 2. The HSUS is represented pro bono by Latham & Watkins, LLP, and Schiff Hardin, LLP along with attorneys from The HSUS's Animal Protection Litigation section.

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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