



Calls to House Members Needed to Protect Dog Ownership

Protect your rights to own and breed dogs in NC

Unfortunately, Governor McCrory, Ann McCrory, and Speaker Thom Tillis are steadfast supporters of establishing dog breeder regulation. In his recommended budget, the Governor included a plan for regulation as a means to bypass the stalled HB 930. The proposed regulatory plan would license and inspect anyone possessing more than nine intact females regardless of ownership or breeding activity, with no exemptions. This is a direct assault on private property ownership.

This plan will also transfer animal welfare enforcement from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Public Safety, Law Enforcement Division which has no experience in animal husbandry. The Division oversees enforcement of alcohol laws, underage access to alcohol and tobacco, emergency management, National Guard and State Police. The proposed plan would give the Division oversight of animal welfare and authority to write rules to modify standards at public shelters, rescue, and boarding kennels, as well as decide how dog breeders might be regulated.

The Governor's stated purpose for the transfer is to have state officials work with local police to deal with alleged "puppy mills". It is an outrage and waste of precious resources to disrupt existing animal welfare regulation by turning the Division's essential staff into HSUS foot soldiers and puppy police.

The state's Law Enforcement Division will be besieged with complaints and public record requests made by animal rights zealots against kennels and shelters of every size. It is impossible to predict the potential costs to law enforcement and county budgets that could result.

HSUS and their supporters always claim these laws are only introduced to stop those "evil puppy mills"; but that is not the case. The McCrory-HSUS regulation plan will have disastrous impact on hobby breeders, sportsmen, and those who breed working and service dogs as well.

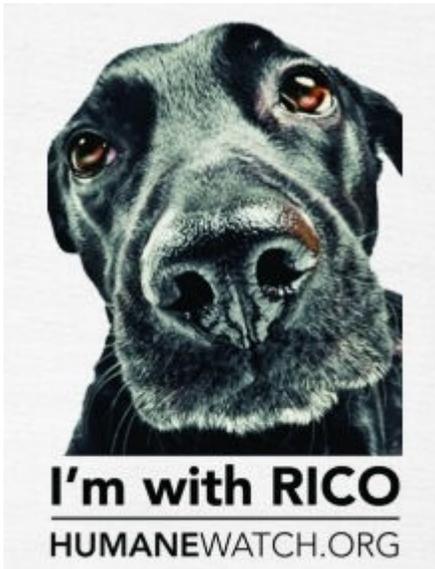
There are substantial laws in place, including sanitation laws, to protect the welfare of animals in our state. More laws heaped on top of them won't make irresponsible people suddenly responsible.



The Senate Budget bill, S744, does not contain this plan. You should contact Senate members and thank them for their common sense votes. However, HSUS advocates are lobbying House members now to include this plan in the House Budget bill. Please contact your Representatives in the House and ask that the Governor's dog breeder regulation plan be rejected.

HSUS Denied Insurance Coverage in Racketeering Lawsuit

The Humane Society of the United States, two of its lawyers, and its affiliate the Fund for Animals have paid \$15.75 million, along with other animal rights activists, as a multi-party settlement of a federal racketeering lawsuit. Today, HSUS put out a defiant statement—a rather odd tactic when you have egg on your face—claiming, among other things, that “We expect that a substantial portion, if not all, of the settlement costs to The HSUS and The Fund for Animals will be covered by insurance, and in the end, that no donor dollars from The HSUS will go to Feld.” (Feld is the owner of Ringling Bros. circus and sued HSUS.) HSUS CEO Wayne “I don’t love animals” Pacelle asserted, “In the end, no donor dollars from The HSUS will go to Feld.”



There's just one small problem: HSUS doesn't have any insurance coverage for this litigation.

Last year, HSUS sued its liability insurance company, National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, for denying HSUS insurance coverage in the RICO litigation. Indeed, HSUS admits in its lawsuit against the insurance company that it is not covered for the racketeering lawsuit:

“28. Plaintiffs [HSUS and two HSUS lawyers] are now required to defend themselves in the Feld Litigation without the benefit of the insurance that HSUS (and its affiliates) purchased from Defendant National Union to protect them.” [...]

“33. HSUS, Lovvorn, and Ockene are currently deprived of insurance coverage for which HSUS paid [...]”

According to the suit, the insurance company alleges HSUS did not make a timely claim after it was sued by Feld in 2010 for bribery, obstruction of justice, and other torts. HSUS says it went by the book.

According to federal court records, this lawsuit between HSUS and its insurance company is still ongoing. The latest filing (yesterday) was a reply to a response to a motion to strike.

So as far as we can tell, HSUS is currently denied liability insurance for this case. Perhaps HSUS is confident that it will eventually prevail and get coverage. But for HSUS to say at this point that no donor money is at risk in the \$16 million multi-party settlement seems misleading at best. We would call it a bald-faced lie, but you'll note that HSUS wrote the weasel words “We expect” and “In the end.”

HSUS chose to omit the inconvenient truth from its statement—that, as of now, its coverage for the RICO lawsuit has been denied by its insurer.

But from a group that deceives its donors and (allegedly) paid a witness, taking the high road and being fully honest with the public and the media doesn't seem to be the top priority—if it's a priority at all.

Posted on 05/16/2014 at 2:07 pm by Humane Watch Team.

Related: HSUS Affiliate Also Denied Insurance Coverage in Racketeering Suit.

The HSUS affiliate the Fund for Animals, also part of the \$16 million settlement, was denied insurance coverage. The Fund's lawsuit against its insurer is being litigated in state circuit court in Maryland.

Source: Humane Watch <http://tinyurl.com/p8ygn8h>

'Radical Animal Rights Movement' Gets New Foe

An Iowa-based organization dedicated to combating "the radical animal rights movement" and led by a former Missouri Republican senator's chief of staff has launched a new super PAC, according to paperwork filed with the Federal Election Commission.

The Protect the Harvest Political Action Committee told the elections regulator that it "intends to raise funds in unlimited amounts" to call for the election or defeat of federal candidates.

On its website, Protect the Harvest warns that "the animal rights movement in America, led by the Humane Society of the United States, has evolved into a wealthy and successful attack group determined to end the consumption of meat, threaten consumer access to affordable food, eliminate hunting, outlaw rodeos and circuses and even ban animal ownership (including pets) altogether."

Source and full story at link: <http://tinyurl.com/l7yq8sn>

Six Flags Wins Court Order

Activists Barred from Protects on Park Grounds, must picket from sidewalk

VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA. Following a series of protests outside Six Flags Discovery Kingdom's front gate, a court has granted a temporary restraining order barring animal rights groups from demonstrating on the park's private property.

The order, which was issued Wednesday by Solano Superior Court Judge Scott Kays, follows a string of coordinated protests this year at the popular Vallejo amusement park. The activists, who are opposed to the park's confinement of wild animals, have worn signs and passed out fliers urging guests to boycott Six Flags or avoid the park's animal attractions.

For years, Six Flags has been the focus of a long-standing debate on the captivity of wild animals. Activists claim the park has a record of mistreating captive animals that has led to fines and citations under the Animal Welfare Act, as well as the premature deaths of animals.

Six Flags has vehemently denied the allegations.

The court order follows a lawsuit filed May 8 by the park's parent company — Park Management Corporation — accusing the activists of trespassing and harassing guests and park employees. The lawsuit names In Defense of Animals, Deborah Classen of Citizens for an Animal-Free Six Flags, Janet Locke and Deniz Bolbol as defendants. Full story at link: <http://tinyurl.com/q9e2h3r>

Red Wolf Program Review Requested

JUNE 4, 2014. The Wildlife Commission sent a letter this week requesting an immediate programmatic evaluation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of its red wolf reintroduction in northeastern North Carolina. Utilizing existing data, the letter requests a determination as to whether the experimental red wolf reintroduction is capable of meeting the goals and objectives established for the project. The letter also informs the USFWS that the Wildlife Commission will not authorize sterilization and release of coyotes in the region due to potential for impacts to private landowners and native wildlife.

Are Service and Assistance Dogs Happy?

"Assistance Dogs May be Well Cared For But Are They Happy" was the title of a controversial column featuring Jennifer Arnold, founder of a service dog school called Canine Assistants and author of "Though A Dog's Eyes".

Arnold told the public via Steve's column, 'I'll just come out and say it -- and expect to be attacked for saying it -- but these dogs are slave labor. I don't know how else to put it. And it is the truth that no one talks about.'

Arnold is also concerned that even after dogs are placed with their handlers and their families, life is not always rosy. "Of course, the dogs are well cared for (and) they're loved by their families," says Arnold. "But their lives are too often so mechanized they have little freedom." Arnold offers that many service or assistance dogs aren't truly happy, and if they could, they'd hail a cab out of town. The dogs may, for example, have limited play time and little contact with other dogs. (Source: <http://tinyurl.com/pnpybp4>)



Toni Eames, President IAADP

Many disagreed vehemently with Arnold, including Toni Eames, president International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (IAADP). Toni and her late husband Ed has been pioneers in the assistance dog movement for decades, educating the general public as well as professionals, including dog trainers and veterinarians. As the President IAADP I'd like to thank Steve for the opportunity to address this subject. Founded in 1993, IAADP is a cross disability nonprofit that represents and advocates for disabled individuals and their beloved guide, hearing and service dogs. We work to foster the assistance dog movement through education, advocacy and peer support initiatives.

On behalf of our 3,000 members worldwide and many others, I certainly agree with Ms. Arnold's statement 'Assistance dogs change lives, save lives, help people to live more independently and therefore productively; there's no question about it.' However I find her characterization of our assistance dogs as 'slave labor' to be a far cry from the truth.

Assistance Dogs are no different from other working dogs such as Search & Rescue Dogs, Narcotics and Explosive Detection dogs and sheep herding dogs. Such dogs are chosen for a high aptitude to work cooperatively with a human partner and the ability to intensely focus on their jobs whenever needed. (Full rebuttal to Jennifer Arnold column at link <http://tinyurl.com/p7pele8>)

Barbara Axel, breeder/ trainer/exhibitor and Founding Board Member of NCRAOA, also disagrees with Arnold. While I thought the article written by Jennifer Arnold was excellent in many points, I strongly disagree with her assumption that service dogs are treated like slaves and unhappy if the trainers and partners do not ascribe only to a method of positive training. This emotional clap trap is often uttered by animal rights groups with the ultimate goal of ending all interaction between people and animals.

It concerns me that this same view is now being promulgated by someone who teaches dogs to learn the skills to partner the disabled.

Most dogs are actually happiest when given a task to do and can successfully complete such a task. Of course all training is teaching done to compel another to change behavior. With children, for instance, early teaching compels them to read and learn math. Children are not always happy about being taught to read, but that accomplishment is something that enables them to live much richer lives in society. So too when changing a dog's behavior we are compelling the dog to perform tasks that it can do physically already, but are teaching it to do them at our timing.

All successful teaching is just that. We do not expect a child to understand algebraic equations before it has learned simple addition. Nor do we expect the equivalent in dogs. But while compliant dogs learn to understand that $1+1=2$ with positive methods only, other smart dogs are compromising, and may use distractions to try to dissuade the teacher from continuing to teach. These smart dogs learn if, for instance, they can make their teacher laugh at inappropriate antics they may not have to complete a specific task.

It is only the observant trainer who knows not to apply corrective measures if the dog is uncertain. However, when he can see that the dog is not confused, but is saying "no" and considers completing an already learned task only if it feels like it, the trainer might apply negative reinforcement whose strength of negativity depends on the particular dog.

Completing a task correctly can make the difference between life and death for a service dog and partner. Jennifer Arnold in her article is promoting and giving lip service to the most current common refrain that the only way of training is by positive methods rather than avoidance of negative. She explicitly mentions the ear pinch method as a terrible thing.

Contrary to these utterances, what I have actually observed in these many years of teaching others, and training my own dogs, is that the dog is most turned off and confused by a constant ineffectual "positive" training, in other words, nagging. Constant ineffectual positive nagging creates a dog that stops trying to learn.

The canine learns in the wild first from its dam and littermates. That dam uses what methods are necessary to teach, and does not stop to think of whether her methods are positive or negative. They must quickly be effectual to enable her cub to live. So too can we apply the methods of the wild dam to domesticated dog. For generations my best, most instinctive dams disciplined their pups as soon as weaning was completed. They approached one after the other of their pups demanding compliance and quickly achieving it. The pups that needed more attention got it.

All pups complied. The pups were not frightened, but learned that the discipline stopped when they showed submission. The dam was methodical, never demonstrating anger, and discipline, not punishment was involved. The dam used just the force necessary to get the message through that might mean the difference between life and death in her pack.

We have observed the dog's earliest instincts of pack behavior. Why not use these same instincts to teach service dogs, nay, all dogs skills? Why should we humans not learn from our super smart dams with good instincts and teach dogs the way to successfully thrive in a pack, our human pack?

Jennifer Arnold should learn from her dogs.

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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