



The NC Legislature is still in session at the time of publication. NCRAOA has already sent comments on current individual introduced bills concerning domestic animals that need attention. Updates on each bill will be sent as they work their way through the House and Senate. *Editor.*

A NEW STATE HSUS DIRECTOR HIRED

(Submitted by Susan Wolf)

Erica Geppi has extensive experience in community organizing, lobbying, digital media and work on over seven political campaigns in the region.

Geppi graduated from the University of Tennessee. She went on to serve as the Regional Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club where she managed both state and federal campaigns for North Carolina. Most recently Erica's career led her to the media industry where she worked as a Digital Engagement Manager advising film and television clients on the implementation of digital social action and nonprofit coalition building. She managed film campaigns including Food, Inc., An Inconvenient Truth, The Cove, Last Call at the Oasis and the launch of the new cable network Pivot TV.

Erica and her two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels live in Raleigh, NC.

The articles submitted below are the opinion of the writers and are being published for your thoughts and consideration:

FLIGHT DISTANCE, FUR FOXES, and DOMESTIC DOGS

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When we talk about wolves, coyotes, foxes, domestic dogs and others, we use “flight distance” to scientifically describe some behavior. Flight distance is measured in both time and space, but it's not nearly as complicated as quantum physics. Let's say we are taking a walk in a wooded area bordering a field when we come across a critter. Does it move toward us like a family pet might or run away from us? If it runs away, when does it do so? Instantly? After looking us over for a few seconds? Obviously, that's a time measurement. When it moves away, how far does it go? A few steps? Completely out of sight? (Space measurement.) How long does it stay there? (Time.) Does it then move closer or farther from us? (Space.) How long does it maintain its new position? (Time.)

The point here is that we don't need a stop watch and a tape measure to know how friendly or how wild the observed animal is. It's common sense. When a critter doesn't go far away, move fast or stay away long, we say it's less flighty than the one who does just the opposite.

Foxes are flighty. Geneticist Dmitry Belyaev fell into political disfavor in the old USSR some half a century ago and found himself on a fox fur farm in Siberia where silver foxes were raised. When cornered in their cages, those foxes hissed, snapped and were notoriously hard to care for and handle. As is usually true of any species group, there was individual variation among the captive foxes. A decision was made to select for friendliness, namely a shorter, slower reaction in both time and space. Breeding the more friendly foxes from several fox farms to each other over time resulted in some unexpected changes. The resultant friendly foxes were easier to handle, did not threaten their caretakers and, after remarkably few generations, began to actively seek human interaction. This was the expected result.

What Belyaev and colleagues did not count on was the emergence of white markings, dropped instead of pricked ears, shorter, sometimes curly tails and different, more dog-like vocalizations in a good percentage of the less flighty foxes. The behavior of the friendly foxes was dog like to the point of some being taken home by their caretakers, trained and treated like the family dog. More importantly, they responded as such. See National Geographic Magazine, March 2011: www.ngm.com

It's no wonder that those of us who research dogs, their origins, behavior and status among humans today find the Belyaev foxes extraordinary. They spotlight how quickly a behavior change can become permanent as well as how such genetically induced behavior change impacts not only mind but also appearance. We could say domestication is partly defined by flight distance. Those now extinct Eurasian wolves -- the less flighty ones -- most likely began the gradual process of self domestication by simply hanging around us ancient humans, breeding more among other nearby friendlies than with their wilder cousins. The first human input to that process might just have been tossing scraps to the "prettier" ones -- those with white markings, the ones who looked different, the ones with more appealing: floppy ears, cute shorter faces, more like puppies. By the time some hunter gatherer societies settled down in more permanent locations, *Canis familiaris* as we know him today was well on his way. It's a workable hypothesis which may eventually be proved by archaeological evidence and more sensitive DNA applications.

In the meantime, watch spectators reacting to a litter of puppies or to a row of dogs in a shelter. Which animals draw the most interest? Almost any shelter worker will tell you that the solid black, the solid brown, the plain Jane dogs are very difficult to place. Flashy white markings and infantile, puppy appearance draw the attention.

The talented Priscilla Barrett has produced many lovely dog-themed pencil drawings. One of my favorites features a sleeping man snuggled all cozy in a chair with his sleeping dog. To me, that's Zero Flight Distance.

ANIMAL RIGHTS UNMASKED

Submitted by Kathryn Smith

A decade ago, in 2005, we warned that PETA, HSUS and other subversive *political* groups were designed to destroy the U.S.

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[Barbara J. Andrews](#), Editor-In-Chief

So where are we today? Embarrassed. Right here in this same column I naively observed "AKC has the political clout and cash to fight animal rights terrorists and protect the purebred dog." Forgive me. That was in 2005.

TODAY we know more about what really went on and what and who we are up against. I know it sounds preposterous and taken in one serving, it is hard to swallow. But if you care about your dogs, the nice car that you drive, your friends and family and future, continue reading. You can't absorb everything in one sitting but you will learn what "Animal Rights" really is and, leaving party affiliations out of this, you will see that it is only one very effective tool in the arsenal of subversive politics.

Is this really an animal rights issue?

Or is it a political war wherein we give up human rights under the guise of protecting animal rights. The answer is unflattering but indisputable. "They" have better leaders than we dog people. Their leaders have led the Animal Rights troops from victory to victory, county by county, from coast to coast.

The only "win" we can crow about is the 2005 PAWS legislation fight. In retrospect, I'm not sure that we won. I mean really! The animal rights groups were better organized, better funded, and apparently, more motivated because today, ten years later, anti-pet political terrorists now dominate an entire nation of pet lovers. For over a decade the FBI has ranked the Environmental Liberation Front (ELF) as the top domestic terrorist threat ^[1] and marching right behind ELF on the FBI terrorist list is ALF, the Animal Liberation Front.

Where do the "Animal Rights" groups get the money?

Stop and think. In 2000, the Humane Society Of The U.S. (HSUS) was nothing compared to PETA. Obviously the money moves deviously and management is cloaked in layers of corporate secrecy. ^[2] Was PETA a carefully calculated diversion? Meant to distract us with crazy actions and headlines so that HSUS could quietly buy political favor *and sitting judges?*



We know that dog people can sniff out a money trail on a rainy day in the Everglades. So having identified the enemy, let's follow him to his lair.

Yeah, a decade ago we nosed out that one of the major contributors to PETA is the **Tides Foundation** ^[3].

ActivistCash.com characterized it as "*one that strains the boundaries of U.S. tax law in the pursuit of its leftist, activist goals.*" The money trail is further described "*Tides behaves less like a*

philanthropy than a money-laundering enterprise taking money from other foundations and spending it as the donor requires. Called donor-advised giving, this pass-through funding vehicle provides public-relations insulation for the money's original donors."

A decade ago Animal "Rights" Groups read like a Who's Who list of organizations known to be in opposition to animal owner rights. Doris Day Animal League (DDAL), Humane Society Of The U.S., (HSUS) Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF), and interestingly, Physicians Committee For Responsible Medicine.

PETA (People For The Ethical Treatment Of Animals) was, in the early 80s, mailing postage-free flyers showing monkeys with the top of their skull removed and electrodes coming out of their brains. I donated until, as a wordsmith, I read the material with new eyes. Wondering who besides me paid for this material I asked around. No one knew.

A couple of years later I asked *Where did PETA get the money* with which to effectively infiltrate the educational system, actually *providing teaching materials for the next generation?* How did they get in the encyclopedias? Could public donations have materialized so quickly in the PETA campaign? And what kind of people would have donated? PETA was regularly achieving network news coverage as a result of outrageous acts but *where did they get the money* to recruit weak-minded soldiers willing to perform such acts?

Before this was first written in 2005, animal lovers pegged PETA people as loonies. Then someone coined the word "humaniacs" but we still failed to identify "animal rights" as an outright political war designed to test the weakness of the American people. Today PETA doesn't need mindless zealots to throw buckets of blood on fur-clad ladies. Now they have billboards, school boards and county boards!!! *Where did they get the money?* They are certainly not busy earning a living to support their subversive agenda.

Here's one place they get money. The domestic terrorist groups (actually defined as such in congressional testimony) are supported by our legislative leaders who grant them tax-free status. And "animal rights groups" receive grants from tax-free foundations we support and by donations from movie stars we pay to see and...

Animal Rights groups, from PETA to HSUS, are well organized and "members" seem unwittingly or otherwise obsessed. Every day, in some way, they are working to undermine our beliefs and our Constitutional Rights. And all the while, dog breeders and pet owners remain blind to the zoning, breed bans, and multitude of dog ownership restrictions because *we have no effective leadership at the national level.* Can you name one single legislative initiative the American Kennel Club or any dog registry has defeated WITHOUT your direct financial support? It is you who digs deeper, you who signs petitions to defeat local and state regulations



that infringe on your rights. They all take the credit but do they take the blame for failure as little by little, our freedoms are taken?

Wimps or Warriors? When it comes to discriminatory animal legislation, do we fight or do we roll over? A warrior does not draw a bow armed with a twig. Which are you? Wimp or Warrior?

Oh wait, I forgot... it is 2015 and you have given up the right to own the breed of your choice. Many of you have decided "it isn't worth the risk" to breed another litter. You can't because you'd be in violation of something and you can't advertise puppies because then they'd come after you! How did it come to this???

If we have less determination than those who threaten our sovereign rights and the soil upon which we tread, we deserve defeat. I know you care about dogs. Of course you care about your country and your personal freedom.



You are an American. Your ancestors fought the Brits for the Right to be free of the crown and to claim this country. Our grandparents died on foreign soil so that you could enjoy the freedom guaranteed under the Constitution. Earlier this month we celebrated V-Day with the fly-over in our nation's capitol. The big bombers and the men who flew them stirred our pride and our patriotic spirit. Today is Memorial Day and we honor those who fought and died for the freedom we enjoyed... back then!

Then how in the world can we walk in fear of animal control, zoning boards, AKC, breed clubs, social media and most demeaning, of a bunch of political terrorists hiding behind the moniker of "animal rights"???

Explore the information, contact your local kennel club and your national breed club. Ask for definitive answers on what they are doing to protect the civil and property rights of dog owners. Talk to local and state leaders and see if they are all about the money and power or if they will add protecting citizen's rights to their platform. There is a lot YOU can do if you want to preserve the right to own the breed of your choice and to insure that you and your family will continue to enjoy the liberty and Constitutional Rights we celebrate this month.

Name Calling

by Barbara Axel

A hen is not called a female rooster,
A mare is not called a female stallion,
A doe is not called a female stag,
A cow is not called a female bull,
A girl is not called a female boy.
So why is a bitch called a female dog?

Identifying genes underlying feline domestication

Montague, MJ, Li G, Gandolfi B., et al. Comparative analysis of the domestic cat genome reveals genetic signatures underlying feline biology and domestication. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A.* 2014 Dec 2;111(48):17230-17235. Partially funded by Winn Feline Foundation (W10-014, W09-009)

Evolution of domestic cats from ancestral wildcats occurred approximately 9,500 years ago coinciding with human transition toward a more agricultural lifestyle. By serving a beneficial role regarding vermin control during this transition period was likely the impetus that started selection of physical and behavioral traits leading to domestication.

A large international team led by researchers at The Genome Institute of Washington University in St. Louis, MO, used the female Abyssinian cat named Cinnamon, as a DNA source from which the first high-resolution (~ 14x) whole-genome reference was constructed. In order to identify genomic regions associated with the domestication process, they used whole-genome analyses of cats from different domestic breeds and wildcats using data pooling methods. Compared with wildcat genomes, domestic cat genomes showed evidence of recent selection in genes linked to memory, fear-conditioning, and stimulus-reward learning; all related to the evolution of tameness. For example, domesticated cats would have needed to become less fearful of humans and develop a working memory in order to adapt to new habitats. The researchers also identified gene-coding proteins that affected their sensory processes, especially affecting vision (e.g., improved vision for hunting rodents during dusk and dawn) and hearing (e.g., increased hearing range in order to hear ultrasounds emitted by their prey). In addition, the domestic cat genome was compared to other mammals - human, tiger, dog, and cow. From these comparisons, positively selected genes involved in lipid (i.e., fat) metabolism are thought to underlie cats becoming obligate carnivores. In the diet of carnivores, fat typically provides most of the fuel for energy; thus, cats need genes coding for proteins that breaking down fats efficiently; the team found such lipid-metabolizing genes that do just that.

From all the genomic insights deemed from this study, it is suggested that the major force that altered the first domesticated cat genome toward domestication was becoming accustomed to humans for food awards.

See also: **Driscoll CA, Macdonald DW, O'Brien SJ. From wild animals to domestic pets, an evolutionary view of domestication. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*. 2009 Jun 16;106 Suppl 1:9971-8.**

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They're Here – Freedom Golden Retrievers and Other Doggy Immigrants

by Carlotta Cooper

As I see it, one of my jobs in life is to wander around social media and burst people's illusions about animals. Most of the time this occurs when I find articles online about animal rights topics, especially if they relate to dogs. If there is an article about dog breeders, for example, you can always find animal rights people making nasty comments and telling lies, so it's a pleasure to jump in and start correcting them. If you just stick to the facts it's enough to drive most of them crazy. On the other hand, sometimes I have friends who post stories that seem to need some comments.

For example, last week I had an old college friend post a story about 36 Golden Retrievers rescued from Turkey and brought to Fulton County (Atlanta) Georgia. I am quite certain that my reaction to this story was different than hers. My friend is a kind-hearted person who likes animals in a general way and has a couple of mixed breed dogs. She supports HSUS without thinking much about it. I re-posted the story on Facebook knowing full well that it would unleash a firestorm of disapproval from just about every dog person I know. And it did. People pointed out that we already have dogs suffering from canine influenza, especially in the Chicago area, that was likely brought in from dogs from Asia. Many people believe this new strain of canine influenza probably came in with dogs rescued from Korea, with the aid of the Humane Society of the United States. What diseases might rescue dogs from Turkey bring with them?

To access the full article go to:

<http://saovanews.blogspot.com/2015/05/theyre-here-freedom-golden-retrievers.html>

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