



NCRAOA News & Views

February 2006

NCRAOA was granted permission this past October to set up a display board at the North Carolina Animal Rabies Control Association conference. NCARCA President, Brenda Miller, first reviewed our website before giving the okay. She was very complimentary of the site and pleased to find a group presenting sensible educational material. The display board received enough attention to deplete the business card supply. Thank you to the NCARCA, we appreciated the opportunity to attend your conference this year.

NCRAOA kicked off our “guest columns” this summer with an agility article containing interesting and different bits of information. We hope this new section will keep our site interactive, interesting, and provide another format for sharing information. We are seeking writers to contribute to this new endeavor.

New On NCRAOA Website

Articles Page/New heading “The No Kill Shelter Debate”: links to information on no-kill shelters - what no-kill shelters are really about

Articles Page/Breed Bans: current list of breeds that are banned in the U.S.

Articles Page/Guardianship: One page handout “*Ten Point List in Opposition to Guardianship.*”

Brochures & Handouts: Three new handouts added in January – *Training Checklist for Your New Puppy*; *Winter Care for Pets*; *Reasons Why Breeding Restrictions Are Wrong*. We highly recommend while on this page you take time to browse through our “Featured Site” People-Pet Partnership from Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. This is a premiere site for educating children and building the human-animal bond.

Dogs/Training Page: “*The Critical Stages of Puppyhood*” - timeline for learning periods and development of puppies.

Legislative Alerts Page: Links to outside websites with information on communicating with your legislators and lobbying guidelines.

The NCRAOA website is now searchable with Google to help you find links, articles and information.

Hot Topics in Animal Health

Feeding for Smarter Puppies. We’ve all heard the saying “fish is brain food”. Now the Iams Company claims that by adding DHA (Omega-3 fatty acid) to their dog food, puppies are smarter and easier to train. In a study of 39 beagles, 19 received the enhanced formula. Beginning at 9 weeks, the puppies were tested multiple times a day in a trial for memory and trainability using shape recognition and food rewards. At the end of the 30 day trial, the beagle puppies raised on the enhanced diet outperformed the others nearly two to one.

Rabies Challenge Fund. A world-renowned vaccine research scientist hopes to raise money to fund a seven-year rabies vaccine challenge study. Dr. W. Jean Dodds of California and Maine resident Kris Christine are spearheading The Rabies Challenge Fund, an effort to raise \$1.5 million to finance two concurrent canine rabies vaccine challenge studies - one for five years and another for seven years. In addition, the funds will pay for a study of canine rabies vaccines and will set up a rabies vaccine adverse reactions reporting system.

The purpose is to determine, by challenge studies designed according to USDA acceptable federal licensing standards, if they confer immunity for five or seven years. To date, most states require rabies vaccination every three years, but some states still require annual rabies revaccination, even though the USDA licenses these vaccines for three years. According to Dr. Dodds, rabies vaccines are known to elicit severe and even fatal adverse reactions, and are among the strongest vaccines antigenically and contain potent catalysts to bolster their immunologic effect; giving them more often than truly needed is unwise, unnecessary, and can be unsafe.

AKC Canine Health Foundation Grant No. 1604 – Auburn University

“Antibody Response and Duration of Immunity in Dogs Vaccinated with Attenuated Canine Distemper Virus, Canine Adenovirus Type 2 and Canine Parvovirus Vaccines from Commercial Sources”. Blood for assay of antibody levels was collected from each of 180 healthy dogs (60 puppies, 12 weeks old or less and 120 adult dogs). Immunity was measured by a standard assay, levels checked for a 3 year period, and the data statistically analyzed. Information collected will be used to determine the criterion for acceptable antibody levels. The study has been completed; however, AKC Canine Health Foundation has not received a report as of this date.

University of Wisconsin-Madison: Cancer vaccine shows early promise.

The school's oncology department has been producing an anti-cancer vaccine for dogs diagnosed with melanoma. Though it is still an experimental treatment, dog owners from all over the nation have wanted to participate in the study, on the remote chance that this would help their pet. After promising results from work done in collaboration with cancer specialists from Arizona, California, and Michigan, the school has hired a full-time technician to produce the existing vaccine. The vaccine being used now has undergone a few modifications designed to increase its anti-cancer efficacy. "Not all dogs with melanoma respond to this treatment," cautions Ilene Kurzman, a researcher in the veterinary medical school's oncology section. "But those that do seem to do quite well." She would like to continue working on the vaccine in the hope that this innovative anti-cancer strategy will translate into similar novel treatments in people with cancer. While the current results are promising, funding limitations reduce the program's ability to take the next step in improving the vaccine and increasing the percentage of animals that respond, Kurzman says. <http://www.news.wisc.edu/12063.html>

North Carolina Animal Laws Passed in 2005 Session.

SB529 – Animal Shelter/Uniform Regulations. Requires Department of Agriculture to establish uniform standards for shelters, training for animal control employees, and standard euthanasia practice. Also introduced in the House as H 685. The bill was passed with funding. NCDA process for implementation of this new law will be as follows:

1. New Animal Welfare Section personnel must be hired to assist in rule-writing and begin implementation of the new law at the appropriate time (hiring process has been initiated).

2. Rules specific to this law must be written, approved by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, approved by the Board of Agriculture, and approved by the Rules Review Commission before any implementation can occur.
3. Initial survey of entities now affected by new law – to occur concurrently with # 2 above.
4. Implementation and enforcement of new law.

SB679 North Carolina Uniform Trust Code. § 36C-4-408. Trust for care of animal. Subject to this section, a trust for the care of one or more designated domestic or pet animals alive at the time of creation of the trust is valid. The trust terminates at the death of the animal or last surviving animal.

SB1058 Assaulting a law enforcement agency animal or an assistance animal.

Amends “harm” to law enforcement agency or assistance animal to include: (1) impairment; or any behavioral impairment that impedes or interferes with duties performed by a law enforcement agency animal or an assistance animal. (2) Requires retraining of the law enforcement agency animal or assistance animal; (3) Requires retirement of the law enforcement agency animal or assistance animal from performing duties. Also requires defendant convicted under the law to make restitution including any veterinary care, boarding expenses, wages or income lost, and any replacement training expenses.

SB266 Animal Exhibition Sanitation/"Aedin's Law"

Provides for regulation of animal exhibitions at sanctioned agricultural fairs, as they may affect the public health and safety. The act requires that the owner or operator of an animal exhibition at a sanctioned agricultural fair obtain an operation permit in order to be allowed to operate an animal exhibition for use by the general public. The Commissioner of Agriculture (Commissioner) is authorized to deny, suspend, or revoke a permit if the exhibition does not comply with this act or rules adopted pursuant to this act. The act also directs the Commissioner to adopt rules concerning the operation of and issuance of permits for animal exhibitions at sanctioned agricultural fairs. These rules are to be developed by the Commissioner, with the advice and approval of the State Board of Agriculture, and in consultation with the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services. The rules are to include requirements for: Education and signage to inform the public of health and safety issues; Animal areas; Animal care and management; Transition and non-animal areas; Hand-washing facilities.

SL 2005-0094 / HB 862 An act to make the law prohibiting the removal of electronic collars from dogs apply statewide. This removed G.S. 14-401.17(d) which listed specific counties and thereby made the law statewide.

§ 14-401.17. Unlawful removal or destruction of electronic dog collars.

- a) It is unlawful to intentionally remove or destroy an electronic collar or other electronic device placed on a dog by its owner to maintain control of the dog.
- b) A first conviction for a violation of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor. A second or subsequent conviction for a violation of this section is a Class 2 misdemeanor.
- c) This act is enforceable by officers of the Wildlife Resources Commission, by sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and peace officers with general subject matter jurisdiction.

HB1085 - Care of Dogs Illegally Used for Fighting. Requires a defendant arrested for using dogs for fighting to post a deposit to the animal shelter to pay for the dog's keep and expenses.

HB686 Update Disabilities Statutes/Service Animals. Updates the language of chapter 168 of the general statutes regarding persons with disabilities and to clarify the law allowing service animals in training to access Public facilities and conveyances when accompanied by a person who trains service animals.

HB888 Cockfighting/Increase Penalty. Increases penalty for cockfighting from Class 2 misdemeanor to Class I Felony.

NOTE: held over from 2005 and eligible for consideration in the 2006 session - **S1032 Study Inherently Dangerous Animals**, introduced by Senator John Garwood (R) (Alexander, Ashe, Watauga, Wilkes Counties). Changed from original bill text into a study on the need to protect the public against the health and safety risks posed by inherently dangerous animals and propose a means of best providing that protection to the public while protecting the welfare of inherently dangerous animals as well. Conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the North Carolina Zoological Park and the Wildlife Resources Commission with input from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, local law enforcement officials, local animal control officials, wild animal breeders, exotic pet hobbyists, commercial pet retailers, and humane organizations.

Food For Thought

With Regret....From the Human Race By Pat Wagner

Dear puppy, don't be bitter, it's easy to explain.
Your people weren't neglectful. They knew not how to train.
They DID love you pup, that was the truth. But their brain was in a fog.
They never realized, you see, that soon you'd be a dog.
It's true they made such joyous plans they meant to follow through,
The wishes and the promise died, and pup, 'twas cause of you.
You left your yard, you soiled the house, and chewed the master's chair.
And no one told the mistress that mats form in your hair.
When you were small the children loved the way you'd romp and clown,
But now the kids are frightened cause you always knock them down.
Dear puppy, you were born that way. They should have known you'd grow.
But while gazing in the puppy pen, no one told them so.
It seems a shame to live out there alone in an empty place,
But puppy, you must understand about the human brain.....
It cannot teach what it has not learned.
Namely, that a dog must be trained.



Survey on Pooper Scooping

According to a survey conducted by East Carolina University's Center for Survey Research and the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, most North Carolinians do not properly dispose of pet waste. Among those surveyed who live in urban areas, 35 percent answered that they either always or often picked up pet waste when they walk their dogs; 34 percent of suburban dwellers answered the same; but only 27 percent of those living in rural areas scoop the poop. That is significant because animal waste — from dogs and cats and birds and raccoons and other species — can cause the bacteria levels to go up in our rivers and sounds. The study also found most North Carolinians do not realize the stormwater that goes through our gutters and drainage systems is generally not treated before it dumps into the nearest stream. The largest source of water pollution is stormwater runoff. Lesson learned: besides being a good neighbor, picking up after your dog helps our environment. ■

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