



January/February 2009

<http://www.fedmedogclubs.org/>

Editor's Note

Happy New Year. Time for a fresh start. The most obvious change is the FMDC logo above my note. Karen Norteman graciously created a clear, modern logo with some shadow dogs and a very accurate outline of maine. Thank you Karen.

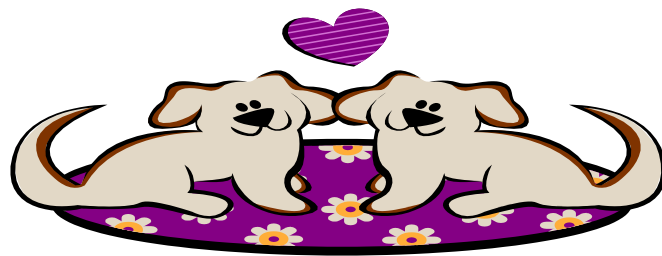
Just below the new logo is the FMDC web address. If you have computer access, please check out the new look of the FMDC website. Sue Westlake regularly updates the site with Federation business and current legislation. She also posts this newsletter on the site in .pdf format for all to read. I urge all FMDC club members to add the site to their favorites and/or link this site to your club's own website. That's the quickest way to spread the word on what's going on in canine legislation.

Included in this issue is the current FMDC membership list. If you see any errors, please don't shoot the messenger! Just contact me with the correction. This is the list I use to send out the newsletter so if there are errors, that is why you're either not getting the newsletter or are getting it when you aren't supposed to.

This newsletter is considered the January and February issue. That is because I didn't receive all information until the end of the month so instead of sending out a late January issue I made this one a double issue. Make sure to keep this issue or at least the calendar page so you will remember the March 17 FMDC meeting.

Also please notice the FMDC calendar on page 11. If your club is holding a dog-related event please contact the interim secretary Jay Kitchener at jay.kitchener@yahoo.com or 646-8121. He'll keep track of clubs' events and pass the information on to me to update the calendar. This calendar is also on the website.

I hope you find the newsletter helpful and informative. Remember, if you have any dog-related events, news or stories you want to share with FMDC members please send them to me at sharpei@sacoriver.net.



Happy Valentines Day!

Addendum to November's Meeting Minutes

The attendees at the November meeting were omitted from the minutes. The following names attended the November meeting and were added to the November minutes after the fact:

Delegates present were:

Dale Dutill, TCOC
Nancy Jensen-Norris, VDC
Nola Soper, CCKC
Mary Mulhern, CCM/MCKC
Jane Moss, CMKC
Idella Nichols, CCKC
Nancy Daniels, PVKC
Amanda Ireland, PVKC
Sharon St. John, PVKC
Tracey Benson, YCKC
Ann Short, CMBC/YCKC
John Short, CMBC/YCKC

Sue Westlake, MRTC
Sara Vanderwood, DESDC
Patty Richards, PTGRC
Susan Robichaud, PHRC
Kathy Wilson, MTDC, CBDTC
Lynne Wolfe, VDC
Gary Anderson, CMBC
Sherrylynn Pierce, KVSSC

Guests present were guest speaker
Erica Harriman and Holly & Don
Strychalski and John Delano,
guests of Ann Short.



FEDERATION OF MAINE DOG CLUBS MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 20, 2009

Delegates present: TCOC- Dale Dutill, PVKC- Sharon St. John, Amanda Ireland, Nancy Daniels, VDC- Lynne Wolfe, Nancy Jensen-Norris, PHRC- Sue Robichaud, CMBC- Ann & John Short, Gary Anderson, Lisa Tarlby, YCKC- Jay Kitchener, Tracey Benson, KVSSC- Carol Jones, Rawena Clowes, MRTC- Sue Westlake, DESDC- Sara Vanderwood, CCKC- Nola Soper, AVGSDC- Laurie Pruet, MTC/CBDTC- Kathy Wilson, CCM/MCKC- Mary Mulhern, CMCK- Jane Moss

Guests: PVKC- Denyse Adams, Mary J Platt, BJ Bachman, MCKC- Sue West, Sue Morlan, Marisa M???, CMKC- Brenda Foster, Barbara Needham, Barbara Whitney

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dale Dutill at 19:30. Phil Guidry, the guest speaker from AKC, was unable to attend due to snow conditions that closed the Raleigh, NC airport down. He will speak at the March FMDC meeting.

Secretary's report: it was pointed out that the minutes of the November meeting were published without the list of members and guests present. Nola moved that the minutes be accepted with the addition of the list of those present at that meeting. Kathy seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Mary distributed the current treasurer's report together with updated information on contact information for the treasurers of member clubs, the annual financial statement for 2007-2008 and a list of the clubs that owe dues and full or partial payment for Newell's services for last year. It was pointed out that one of the clubs listed is no longer a member of the Federation. Mary also submitted her letter of resignation as treasurer, effective immediately. Jay moved to accept the treasurer's report. Kathy seconded, motion passed.

Lobby Day: Jay Kitchener, head of the Legislative Committee, then assumed control of the meeting. He presented the options available for refreshments for Lobby Day. We cannot bring in an outside vendor but must use the State House Café or the Capitol Connection. After discussion of the cost and of the food options available, Ann Short moved that the Federation provide coffee and a continental breakfast (donuts, bagels, muffins, scones, etc.) at a cost of \$3.75 per person for approximately 100 people for Lobby Day. Lynne seconded, motion passed. Laurie Pruet generously offered her credit card in payment as the payment must be made very soon. She will be reimbursed by either the Federation treasury or private donations.

LD2010: Jay and Sara Vanderwood have drafted a response to the LD2010 majority and minority reports submitted by Norma Worley to the ACF committee on January 15th. The Federation representative(s) (Jay and Laurie Pruett), the Sled Dog club representative (Sara) and the AKC representative (Ken Marden) to the task force on LD2010 expressed views that were not included in the minority report. We have opted not to join the minority report as views by the commercial kennel representative and the HSUS representative are included and we don't wish to be seen as agreeing with their positions. The draft of our separate letter to the ACF committee includes the following points:

- * Expresses our appreciation to the committee for allowing us to be part of the task force.
- * The Federation chose not to join the minority report submitted as we feel we need additional time to digest its final language and to secure input from our respective constituencies. Therefore we have chosen to use this form to address our concerns and offer our thoughts on various issues as follows:
- * Expand the definition of "breeding kennel" from 5 intact animals to 5 intact bitches.
- * Include/retain the exemption of "municipal kennels" as created by the ACF committee and approved by the 123rd legislature.
- * We recommend that education of both breeders and the general public should be paramount to any animal welfare efforts. We continue to advocate, as we did as members of the working group, that kennel definitions should be based on purpose or function rather than on numbers of animals. We also contend that there should be no upper limit on the number of animals an individual can own as that is not an indicator of the quality of care afforded those animals.
- * We also advocate that any rules promulgated by the AWD regarding fair and/or fake damage to breeding kennels be major substantive rather than routine and technical (the legislature can give the department authority to make their own rules so that not every little issue has to be brought before the full legislature for resolution. If a rule is major substantive, it has to be approved by the legislature before it becomes a rule. Routine and technical rules do not require legislative approval. The LD2010 report contains a loophole that would allow Norma to write her own rules.

Norma will present the task force report to the ACF on January 28th. Our letter will also be submitted to the committee for their consideration at that time. Once we see what action (or no action) is taken by the committee on LD2010, then we have to decide whether to support it, oppose it or remain neutral. If we oppose it, we run the risk of being excluded from further legislative process. If the committee takes no action, LD2010 is tabled (dead). Dennis Palmer of the Maine Beagle Association and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine plan to oppose it vigorously. These groups are not part of the FMDC at present which works to our advantage if they are determined to oppose LD2010 (there will be opposition but it won't be us).

If the ACF decides to incorporate our ideas, they will become part of the final document. Their action will determine what course we take. It would be better to wait until after the 28th to see what action (if any) the ACF committee takes before talking with our elected representatives.

Norma's "October surprise" should have an official title by next week.

What is the best information to give the general public?

- 1- emphasize that only 40% of the dogs in Maine are licensed and that is what funds the AWD. Make the point that it is inequitable for dog owners to fund a department that is responsible for the welfare of **all** the animals in Maine, regardless of species.
- 2- AR vs. AW- give info in small increments so people are not overwhelmed with too much information all at once. Stress the importance of purpose rather than just legislating by numbers.
- 3- good motto: **stop counting, start caring- we want to focus on the care of the animals, not on how many you have!**

The Federation has submitted two bills for consideration in the current legislative session. Both are being sponsored by Sen. Richard Nass (R-York).

The first would eliminate dog licensing and levy a surcharge on each rabies vaccine given (every 3 years) at the manufacturer's and distributor's level. Norma's proposal to triple dog licensing fees probably won't fly given the current state of the economy so AWD may be willing to compromise. The suggestion that cats be licensed in addition to dogs found no support. The bill

continued on next page

may go nowhere but it shows the legislature that FMDC wants to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

The second bill would create a position for FMDC on the AWAC.

FMDC is now being proactive rather than reactive.

Breeder's Directory: spares to be distributed to legislators at Lobby Day.

Website: Sue will add the names and contact info for the members of the ACF committee. If a member wants something added, contact Sue. It was suggested that links to NAIA and AKC be added.

Committee reports: 501/constitution & by-laws revision is working on a draft. Once completed, it will be posted on the website and in the newsletter for delegate input and approval.

Old Business: Jay reiterated that he is willing to speak to any dog club in Maine on legislative issues. Also we are trying to establish a computer connection for meetings so that clubs that have problems attending meetings due to distance can participate.

We need a secretary and a treasurer to temporarily replace Nola and Mary until the next election of officers for next year in June. Tracey Levasseur has agreed to do the FMDC newsletter for 4 issues. As there were no other volunteers to fill the needed offices on a pro tem basis, Jay agreed to act as secretary and Kathy Wilson agreed to act as treasurer on these terms. We will appoint a nominating committee at the March meeting to provide a slate of officers for next year.

New Business: Jay and Newell plan to meet to discuss Newell's 2009 contract provisions. Jay will draft a letter to the member clubs to explain costs and the necessity of retaining a lobbyist.

Several members will need a hard copy of the newsletter as they do not have computer access.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:55.



FMDC TO HOST LOBBY DAY IN AUGUSTA FEBRUARY 4, 2009

The Federation of Maine Dog Clubs will host a Lobby Day in the State Capitol's Hall of Flags on Wednesday, February 4th, 2009 from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

FMDC delegates shared great ideas and excitement for Lobby Day at the December 3rd meeting of the Legislative Committee of FMDC. Additional meetings to finalize plans will be held in January 2009.

Pursuant to the policy adopted by the Maine Legislative Council for use of the Hall of Flags, no dogs will be allowed in the State House building.

"Lobby Day is an effective and fun way to deliver our message of responsible dog breeding and ownership directly to our elected officials", said Jay Kitchener, Legislative Chair for FMDC.

Walter Bebout, Director of the American Kennel Club's Government Relations Department said, "The 31 AKC-affiliated clubs in Maine conducted 82 events in 2007 with a combined total of 11,000 dogs in them." Kitchener adds that these events brought hundreds of thousands of dollars into Maine's economy.

"We are experts on responsible dog breeding and ownership, and we're experts at putting on successful events. The level of excitement for Lobby Day is amazing. This is an all-hands-on-deck event, and we're hoping to have everyone involved from all across the state", said Kitchener.

For additional information, contact Jay Kitchener at 207-646-8121 or jkitchener@maine.rr.com

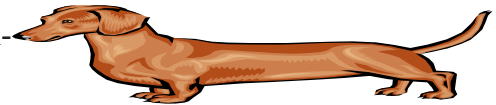
A NOTE FROM FMDC'S LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

By Jay Kitchener

This is our message for Lobby Day and NOTHING MORE. We must keep it simple and positive. WE MUST STAY ON MESSAGE. OUR MESSAGE IS THESE TALKING POINTS. PERIOD.

Thank you for your complete cooperation. Thank you, too, for all that you do in support of our cause.

- We are the responsible dog breeders in Maine. Sub-standard care and breeding practices deeply concern us.
- Regulations currently on the books are more than adequate to track down offenders. The problem is getting the resources to connect the dots.
- The State of Maine needs the resources to protect these animals.
- All of society benefits when animals are given better protection. And, all of society, not just responsible dog owners, should help pay for that protection.



SEVEN THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HSUS

(The Human Society of the United States)

1. HSUS does NOT operate or have direct control over any animal shelter. Buried deep within HSUS website is a disclaimer notice that the group "is not affiliated with, nor is a parent organization for, local humane societies, animal shelters, or animal care and control agencies". When HSUS merged with the Fund for Animals they acquired some animal sanctuaries but those are usually full when someone tries to send animal there - unless the animal comes with a big check.

2. Since its inception, HSUS has tried to limit the choices of American consumers, opposing dog breeding, conventional livestock and poultry farming, rodeos, circuses, horse racing, marine aquariums, fur trapping and medical research. (Check California's Proposition 8 regarding caging of chicken on egg farms - passed in November 2008)

3. HSUS raises enough money to help finance animal shelters in every single state, with money to spare, yet it doesn't operate a single one anywhere. Instead HSUS spends millions on programs that seek to economically cripple meat and dairy producers; eliminate the use of animals in biomedical research labs; phase out pet breeding, zoos, and circus animal acts; and demonize hunters as crazed lunatics. HSUS spends \$2 million each year on travel expenses alone, just keeping its multi-national agenda going.

4. While most local animal shelters are under-funded and unsung, HSUS has accumulated \$113 million in assets and built a recognizable brand by capitalizing on the confusion its very name provokes.

5. The current president of HSUS, Wayne Parcell, is a former officer of PETA.

6. HSUS is currently under investigation by the Attorney General of Louisiana in regards to the disposition of Katrina funds. HSUS has been under investigation by the FBI for their links to domestic terrorist organizations such as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). One of their current officers, John P. Goodwin is a former member of ALF and a convicted felon for acts of terrorism related to animals.

7. HSUS consistently jumps on the bandwagon of any animal issue to raise funds even if they are NOT directly involved. More recently they used the Michael Vick case as a major fund raiser, even though HSUS had nothing to do with the investigation or care of the Vick dogs.

(This article is from the Colonial Rottweiler Club Oct/Nov 2008 Newsletter)

-- courtesy PVKC newsletter



Press Release

LABRADOR RETRIEVER HOLDS FIRM IN TOP SPOT ON AKC'S LIST OF MOST POPULAR DOGS IN AMERICA; LOVABLE BULLDOG CONTINUES ITS ASCENT

-- AKC Celebrates 125th Anniversary with a Look Back at First AKC Registered Breeds in History

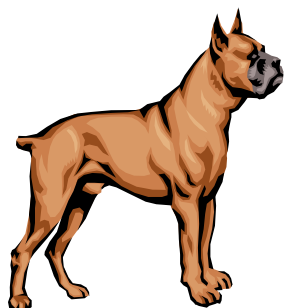
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New York, NY – For the 18th consecutive year, the Labrador Retriever is the most popular purebred dog in America, according to 2008 registration statistics released today by the American Kennel Club® (AKC). But, while more than twice as many Labs were registered last year than any other breed making it a likely leader for many years to come, the Bulldog continues to amble its way up the list. The breed made news last year by returning to the AKC's Top 10 for the first time in more than 70 years and now has jumped 6%, advancing two spots to land in 8th place.

“The playful Lab may still reign supreme, but the docile and adaptive nature of the Bulldog is gaining ground as a family favorite,” said AKC Spokesperson Lisa Peterson. “It’s no surprise to learn that this devoted family companion is still growing in popularity.”

2008 Most Popular Dogs in the U.S.

1. Labrador Retriever
2. Yorkshire Terrier
3. German Shepherd Dog
4. Golden Retriever
5. Beagle
6. Boxer
7. Dachshund
8. Bulldog
9. Poodle
10. Shih Tzu



125 YEARS OF HISTORY

Like the Bulldog, the popularity of breeds ebbs and flows over time. The AKC is proud to be celebrating its 125th Anniversary during 2009. In 1884 at the time of the organization's founding, AKC registered only nine breeds versus the 161 it recognizes today:

AKC Registered Breeds in 1884

Rank in 2008

Pointer	111
Chesapeake Bay Retriever	48
English Setter	86
Gordon Setter	92
Irish Setter	69
Clumber Spaniel	117
Cocker Spaniel*	21
Irish Water Spaniel	144
Sussex Spaniel	147



*In 1884 the English Cocker Spaniel and the Cocker Spaniel were registered as the same breed. They were separated in

1946. Today the English Cocker Spaniel is ranked 70th.

These original breeds are all current members of the Sporting Group -- dogs bred to help man find and retrieve game. They all have innate instincts in the water, field and woods. While none of the original nine is anywhere near the AKC Top 10, the qualities that made them effective hunters -- trainability and desire to please -- make them ideal family dogs today.

“I think the comparison of our original nine to the current top 10 illustrates the different needs that dogs fill today,” said Peterson. “In the 1880’s most breeds served a specific purpose or function. Today dogs still serve man and in even more diverse roles -- from guide dog to bomb detection K-9 – but most of all, dogs are now companions that ground us to nature in a busy and increasingly technological world.”

PET PREFERENCES: TOP 50 CITIES

While time periods are indicators for the popularity of certain pets, so is geography. Each year, AKC looks at the most popular breeds in each of the 50 largest cities in the U.S. Some highlights:

- While the Bulldog continues to climb the national list, it’s really marking its territory in a number of western cities -- Las Vegas, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego – where it comes in 2nd, right after the Lab.
- Only Honolulu, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Portland, Raleigh, and Salt Lake City snubbed the Bulldog — opting for a wide variety of other breeds in their Top 10.
- Detroit and Miami are the only cities that do not have the Labrador Retriever in the top spot, both favoring the German Shepherd Dog.
- The Boxer is muscling its way to the top in a few cities, ranking second in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Des Moines, Louisville, Omaha and Kansas City. It’s 3rd in Atlanta, Cleveland, New Orleans, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and even Philadelphia -- where like its boxing brethren “Rocky” it’s still a literal underdog, but if movie plots are any indication, perhaps not for long.
- Californians seem to love the Miniature Pinscher (ranked 32nd nationally). It came in 6th (up from 15 last year) in San Diego and also ranked 8th in Sacramento.
- The Vizsla is tied for 10th with the Shih Tzu in Chicago. Ranked 44th nationally, the Vizsla has long been a favorite in the Windy City, having made the local top 10 list in 2007 and 2003.
- Unusual breeds on local top ten lists including the Great Dane (10th in St. Louis), the Mastiff (10th in Indianapolis), the Brittany (10th in Minneapolis), the Belgian Malinois (8th in Kansas City) and the Siberian Husky (9th in Long Beach).

PET PREFERENCES: 1998–2008

Some of the most notable recent trends in the past decade include:

- The Bulldog (+69%) and four of its relatives are among the breeds that have increased most significantly over the last decade: Miniature Bull Terrier (+109%), Bull Terrier (+102%), Staffordshire Bull Terrier (+69%) and the Bullmastiff (+22%).
- The French Bulldog (+467%), the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (+209%) and the Brussels Griffon (+73%) continue to be among the breeds with the largest increases, likely due to their popularity with urban dog owners who favor portable, apartment-sized dogs.
- The Border Collie, often considered among the most intelligent and trainable breeds, and known for its mastery of the highly popular canine sport of agility, saw a significant increase (+50%).
- Lesser known breeds that saw an increase include the Ibizan Hound (+74%), Norwich Terrier (+39%) and Bedlington Terrier (+28%).
- Large dogs with notable increases are two Swiss breeds – the Bernese Mountain Dog (+78%) and the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (+88%) – as well as the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon (+117%), which hails from France.
- Among breeds on the decline are the Lhasa Apso (-80%), Rottweiler (-76%), Schipperke (-75%) the Basset Hound (-66 %) and, despite its popularity in Sacramento and San Diego, the Miniature Pinscher (-75%).
- Portuguese Water Dogs, in the news recently due to the Obama family’s interest in this mid-sized, hypoallergenic breed, is currently ranked 64th and has increased 44% in the past decade—especially appropriate considering Obama is our 44th president.
- However another famous presidential pet – the American Foxhound (-75%) – is on the decline. George Washington is credited with developing the breed.

FMDC membership list – updated 1-22- 09

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FMDC membership list – updated 1-22- 09

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AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

January 15, 2009

To: All American Kennel Club Licensed and Member Clubs Approved for Obedience Events

We thought it would be helpful to provide AKC clubs that hold obedience trials with a summary of recent and future changes to the Obedience Regulations. All of the following changes are in the October 2008 Gazette and available on the AKC website.

In 2007, the AKC Board approved three optional titling classes, which became effective on January 1, 2009. Offering these classes is entirely optional and the club's decision.

- Graduate Novice. Exercises are the same as when this class could be offered as a non-regular class; judges must be approved to judge Novice or higher classes; suggested judging rate is eight dogs per hour.
- Graduate Open. Exercises are the same as when this class could be offered as a non-regular class; judges must be approved to judge Open or higher; judging rate is seven dogs per hour.
- Versatility. Structure is slightly different from when this class could be offered as a non-regular class, with 12 possible combinations provided for judges to choose from; judges must be approved to judge Utility; suggested judging rate is six dogs per hour.

Three new non-regular classes have been added to the Obedience Regulations, as approved by the AKC Board at the July 2007 Board meeting. These classes are Wild Card Novice, Wild Card Open, and Wild Card Utility. Judges must have trained and exhibited a dog to the Utility title and must apply to the AKC for approval to judge non-regular classes.

A new Master (OM)/Grand Master (OGM) title program was added to recognize consistently high scoring dogs, in which title points will be recorded for dogs with a Utility title. The point schedule is listed in the regulations.

Effective on January 1, 2010, clubs will have the option of holding two all-breed obedience trials concurrently, at the same time on the same day (as opposed to two trials in succession under the current rules). A new non-regular class, Obedience Advanced Team Work, may be offered.

Effective July 1, 2010, a club may offer a new optional titling class, Beginners Novice (BN), which is a class designed to bridge Rally and Novice level obedience.

Additionally, effective January 1, 2011, the CD CDX, UD, GN, GO, VER, and BN titles will be awarded to any dog who receives three qualifying scores under two different judges. This will change the current requirement of three qualifying scores under three different judges. Additional information on changes and effective dates are on the AKC website.

Sincerely,

Curt A. Curtis



FMDC Calendar

(last updated on 1/24/09)

January 2009	February 2009	March 2009
4/18 KVSSC Classes at Buker School in Augusta 20 FMDC Meeting	1/22 KVSSC Classes at Buker School in Augusta 4 FMDC Lobby Day, Augusta	17 FMDC Meeting 8/22 KVSSC Classes at Buker School in Augusta 22 PTGRC Eye and Heart Clinics 26 DSDCofME Lobby Day Augusta 29 KVSSC All Breed Fun Day
April 2009	May 2009	June 2009
11/12 CBDTC AKC OB Trials	2/3 YCKC Point Shows 16/17 VDC Point Shows 19 FMDC Meeting 29-31 MRTC Field Trial, Burnham	16 FMDC Annual Meeting 20/21 PVKC Pt. Shows 20/21 MRTC Hunt Test, Burnham
July 2009	August 2009	September 2009
18 CMKC B-OB Match 19 CCKC B-OB Match	8 PVKB B-OB Match and Rally 27/28 CMKC Point Shows 29/30 MCKC Point Shows 29/30 MRTC Hunt Test, Burnham	15 FMDC Meeting 18-20 MRTC Field Trial in Burnham
October 2009	November 2009	December 2009
	17 FMDC Meeting-Breeder cards due	

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