



May/June 2009

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

Editor's Note

This is my last newsletter as temporary FMDC editor. Thank you all for your patience getting the membership list updated and copies to the right members. I also appreciate the various articles and updates sent to me over these past five months. An editor is only as good as the material he/she is given to work with.

I hope you all continue to find material you think is important to FMDC and submit it to webmaster Sue Weslake or the next editor. I heard a rumor there are a couple of folks who may fill this position. If it's true let me be the first to congratulate you on stepping up to this extremely important job and know that I will help you in any way possible to transition into the editor's role.

Communication is the key to dealing with the recent onslaught of anti-pet legislation. Sue Weslake has worked diligently to keep the FMDC website updated, but not everyone checks the site on a regular basis. And not everyone can make the meetings. This is where the newsletter is critical.

This newsletter is particularly important in that the 501 Committee has submitted its final revisions to the FMDC bylaws. Please read through them carefully, share them with your club and if you have any concerns, comments or confusion ask any member of the 501 Committee or bring those concerns to the May 19 meeting. The bylaws are the "owners manual" to the Federation and are there to guide the club through meetings, disputes, elections, etc. They keep order at meetings and define the club as well as the officers. It's a way to keep things organized, because if a club isn't organized it can't conduct business efficiently.

Good Luck,

Tracey Levasseur



EDITOR
Open

This newsletter is published by the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs, Inc. Opinions expressed in articles and editorials are not necessarily those of the FMDC. Advertisements, litter announcements and show win brags do not constitute endorsement. The editor reserves the right to accept or reject any material submitted for publication.

FEDERATION OF MAINE DOG CLUBS
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 17, 2009

Members Present: Jay Kitchener, Tracey Benson, Jody Hansen, Jane Moss, Brenda Foster, Judy LaBonte, Dale Dutil, Lynne Wolfe, Sara Vanderwood, Penny Overton, Mary Mulhern, Sue Robichaud, Dave Robichaud, Gary Anderson, Ann Short, John Short, Betty Bachman, Nancy Jensen-Norris, Kathy Wilson, Denyse Adams, Sharon St. John, Nancy Daniels, Amanda Ireland, Patty Richard

The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by chairman Dale Dutil.

Secretary's Report: Denyse Adams moved, Ann Short seconded to accept the January minutes as published in the newsletter. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy reported that the checkbook contains a balance of \$2942.93. This is the only account for the Federation. There is no savings account or CDs. Lynne Wolfe moved, John Short seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Passed.

Sue Westlake will be in FL for the next 5-6 weeks which may result in delays posting information to the website. Timely information, such as notification of hearings, should be emailed to the delegates list for distribution to members.

At the informational meeting on February 27 with Newell, 14 of the 21 Federation member clubs voted informally to retain Newell as our lobbyist. A formal vote tonight unanimously favored retaining Newell to make it official.

LD 1053, just introduced by Rep. Sara Stevens of Bangor, was referred to committee today. Sen. Nutting plans to hear all the animal welfare bills together on one day. This probably won't be until sometime in April as two bills have yet to be printed. Once this is done, Newell and representatives from the legislative committee will meet with the Governor's chief of staff and the chief advisor on agricultural issues to discuss the bills and determine the Federation's views on each one, stressing purpose over numbers.

On April 16, an HSUS seminar is scheduled at Husson College in Portland. The keynote speaker is reported to be Peter Singer, AR extremely radical activist. Major topic for discussion is how to bring CA Prop 2 to Maine. Jay has been invited to NH on Mar. 28 to meet with the NH Fed to discuss how NH can assist ME in its fight against AR legislation. HSUS is concentrating on ME as they feel they cannot make significant inroads in NH and VT.

501 Committee: suggestions for final revision of the by-laws will be incorporated in the final version which should be ready for distribution to the membership soon. Hopefully the final version will be ready for a vote by the next Federation (May) meeting as some of the changes we hope to make can't be done until the new by-laws and constitution have been adopted, such as changing the Fed meetings to a monthly schedule and changing the titles of the officers/BOD positions. 501 and by-laws committees, originally separate, were combined due to membership concurrence and goals that were so similar as to be inseparable. Our 501 status decisions will not be ready by the May meeting as the 501 status will be determined by our annual revenue and the organizational purpose statement as contained in the new by-laws. A recommendation may be ready but will not be ready for a final vote.

If the revised by-laws are ready for presentation at the May meeting, they can be voted on as a complete document or each provision can be considered separately. Robert's Rules of Order strongly suggests the latter approach.

There is a special unit of the IRS that deals specifically with tax-exemption issues, that can only be accessed by phone and Sharon has been having very limited success with them as she is not a Federation officer or board member which is required to receive specific information from this division. We do have an EIN but no 501 status as the Federation has never had sufficient revenue to need it. A definition of the purpose of the Federation will help define our 501 status. As there is a vacant position on the BOD, Jay moved and John Short seconded that Sharon St. John be elected to fill the vacant position. Passed unanimously. Sharon can now deal with the IRS as a legitimate Federation board member which should facilitate the receipt of information we need to define our 501 status.

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Newell's contract provides for 8 monthly payments (Feb.-Sept. 2009) to fulfill the total amount of \$7500. We already owe him for the Feb. and March payments. Jay made a motion to include a \$1000 payment with the acceptance letter to Newell; said motion was seconded and passed until Sara calculated that the two months payments actually came to \$1875. Jay withdrew his original motion and seconded a new motion to pay Newell the \$1875 to cover the Feb. and March payments. Motion passed. A check for \$1875 will be included with Newell's contract acceptance letter.

Jay has submitted a bill for reimbursement of expenses he incurred over the past year (Feb.'08-Feb.'09) as chairman of the Fed Legislative Committee. The total is \$340.07 which includes setting up the Federation booth at dog shows, gas mileage (\$0.14/mile) to speak at various area clubs, 2010 work sessions and other required meetings and testimony given in NH. Due to the depleted state of the Fed treasury and the unexpected nature of Jay's request, the issue was tabled for the present time. This issue brought to light the need for a Federation budget to cover expenses that will be incurred by the Federation in the coming year other than Newell's fee. Treasurer Kathy Wilson will be sending out dues notices and statements of each club's financial responsibility for Newell's fees by May 1. As there will be additional Federation expenses in the coming year, Sara Vanderwood moved, seconded by Nancy Daniels, that a budget committee be formed to estimate these expenses. The committee will consist of Kathy Wilson, Gary Anderson and Penny Overton.

Jay had a suggestion for fund-raising that has been utilized by YCKC with some success in the past. An appraisal day, where area residents can bring up to 3 items for appraisal by qualified appraisers from Skinner's Antique Auction House in MA, can result in a fair addition to the Federation treasury. The appraisers are paid \$350 apiece and if the site is less than 2 hours from Boston, do not require overnight accommodations. Skinner's will promote the event. Kathy moved that Jay contact Skinner's for available dates, current fees, liability insurance and other pertinent information to present at the May meeting. Seconded, passed.

Denyse Adams moved to adjourn, seconded unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



AKC LAUNCHES NEW CANINE LEGISLATION TRACKING SYSTEM

[May 7, 2009]

The AKC is pleased to announce the launch of the new AKC Government Relations Legislation Tracking Service. This new service enables you to check the status of all 2009 canine legislation in each of the 50 states, as well as federal legislation.

To use this service, go to the AKC Government Relations web page, www.akc.org/canine_legislation and click on the large "AKC Government Relations 2009 Legislation Tracking" icon. This will bring you to a new page with a clickable map of the United States. To view federal legislation, click on the "US Fed" icon to the right of the map. You can also click on any state to view that state's pending canine legislation, the latest legislative developments, the progress of specific bills, and, if applicable, AKC legislative alerts and messages. In addition, you can view the actual text of the bill or read a brief official legislative summary.

The AKC does not have a position on every bill posted; rather, this service is meant as a reference tool for you to see all the issues being considered in your state.

We hope you will enjoy using this new service of the AKC Government Relations Department.

Any questions or comments regarding this new service should be directed to the AKC Government Relations Department at (919) 816-3720 or doglaw@akc.org.

Editor's note: the item below is a draft of the FMDC Constitution and Bylaws presented by the 501 Committee. This is draft up for scrutinizing at the May 19 meeting. Please review and bring any thoughts or concerns to the meeting.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1. NAME, OBJECTIVE, AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of the federation shall be the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Friends

Section 2. The primary purpose and objective of the Federation is to:

- Protect the rights of and promote the interests of responsible dog owners and breeders in the State of Maine
- Be proactive within Maine's legislative process as it pertains to animal welfare vs. animal rights
- Form alliances with other likeminded groups who share the Federation's objectives and philosophies

Section 3. The Federation shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Federation shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual. All such moneys accruing to the Federation shall be devoted to the above stated objects or made as specific bequests to such charitable organizations as shall be approved by a majority of the membership at a meeting.

Section 4. The members of the Federation shall adopt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. There shall be three types of membership. All members and sponsors shall subscribe to the objective and purpose of this Federation. Members shall have the right to actively participate in and be represented by the Federation of Maine Dog Club. The Executive Board of Directors reserves the right to reject or accept any membership.

(a) Member Club: Open to organized dog clubs and dog associations domiciled in the State of Maine. Clubs will be represented by 3 delegates of record. Voting member.

(b) Associate Member: Open to an individual who is 18 years of age or older. Non-voting member. Associates will be represented by 1 member on the Federation Board of Directors entitled to will be entitled to cast one vote.

(c) Sponsor: Open to professional, commercial, educational and non-profit organizations. Each sponsor is entitled to a free business card size ad in each monthly Federation newsletter and can receive advertising space to booths sponsored by the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs. Non-voting members.

Section 2. Dues. Membership dues shall be:

(a) Member Club: \$35.00 per year. (b) Associate Member: \$15 per year. (c) Sponsor: \$250 per year.

Dues are payable on or before the last day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November the Treasurer shall notify all members that dues for the ensuing year are due. This notice will be printed in the newsletter and the website. Annually, the Board of

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Directors will review the amount of dues and will communicate any necessary changes to the membership. A member shall be considered to be in good standing when their Federation dues are paid and they regularly attend Federation meetings.

Section 3. Application for Membership. Upon request for membership, the Federation shall provide the interested party with an application for membership and a copy of this constitution and by-laws. All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application will be read at the first meeting of the Federation following its receipt. Applicant will be notified and must be present at the time of the reading.

(a) Member Club: Application shall state the name of the organization, the number of members, and the name, address and telephone number of the corresponding secretary and name one delegate and two alternate delegates to the Federation. Dues will accompany the application but are refundable should application be rejected.

(b) Associate Member and Sponsor: Application shall state the name, address and telephone number of the applicant and shall submit dues for the current year. Each application shall be endorsed by one delegate in good standing.

Section 4. Termination of Membership. Membership may be terminated by:

(a) Resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Federation upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Federation.

(b) Lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Federation meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.

(c) Expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion upon the recommendation of a majority of the board and will be handled on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE 2. MEETINGS AND VOTING.

Section 1. Federation Member Meetings (Regular Meetings) shall be held monthly on the third Tuesday in or near the City of Augusta, Maine. There shall be a quorum of 20% of members in good standing. Written notice shall be mailed (via email and/or US Postal Service) to all members by the Secretary at least 21 (21) days prior to the date, posted on the Federation website, and included in the Federation newsletter. Meetings may be canceled in July and/or August.

Section 2. Executive Board of Directors shall meet [one hour] prior to each regular monthly Federation Member Meeting. The quorum shall be a majority of the Board. The Executive Board shall provide an account of their meeting during the regular Federation meeting.

Section 3. Emergency Meetings. The Board may authorize the President to conduct emergency meetings without notice; such meetings may be conducted by telephone when necessary. The quorum shall be a majority of the Board.

Section 4. Standing Committee Meetings. Committee meetings shall be called by the committee chair as needed. A notice of 10 days shall be given to the Secretary. The chair is responsible to notify the Board and each committee members via written notice via email and/or US Postal Service and posted on the Federation website. A quorum of 20% of Committee members shall be present.

Section 5. Voting at Federation Meetings. Each member club in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to 3 delegate votes. Associates do not vote but the 'associate' director shall cast

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1 vote on their behalf. Voting will not be permitted at any Federation meeting or election. All voting shall be in person.

ARTICLE 3. DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Board of Directors. The Executive shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws. The Executive Board shall consist of 4 elected Federation officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and 4 Directors (1 associate member, 2 delegates of a member club in good standing, immediate past president (or chair). In the event of a vacancy the position may be filled by appointment of the President.

Section 2. Respective Duties.

(a) The President shall preside as Chair at all meetings of the Federation and of the Board and, subject to the oversight of the Board, shall supervise the affairs of the Federation. The President may speak for the Federation and may disburse its funds in the pursuit of the Federation's objectives, but is jointly responsible with the Treasurer for the proper handling of any Federation funds. Both President and Treasurer shall sign all checks or orders for the payment of monies from the Federation when the sum is over \$500. Otherwise the signature of the Treasurer is sufficient. The immediate past president shall become a Director upon stepping down from the office of President.

(b) The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the case of the president's death, absence or incapacity. The Vice President shall serve as principal communications officer. All outward communication for the Federation shall first pass through the VP who is responsible to contact all Federation membership and keep them apprised of all developments within the Federation. The Vice President shall convey the objectives and purposes of the Federation to outside media. The VP is also responsible to synchronize newsletter and website content with the objectives and purposes of the Federation.

(c) The Secretary shall, subject to the oversight of the Board, keep a record of all meetings of the Federation and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Federation. The Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Federation with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws. The Secretary's address shall be the official address of the Federation. The Secretary shall be the registered agent with the State of Maine for the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs.

(d) The Treasurer, subject to the oversight of the Board, shall collect and receive moneys due or belonging to the Federation. Treasurer shall deposit these moneys in a bank satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Federation. Treasurer books shall at all time be open to inspection of the Board and he shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Federation's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting he shall render a written account of all Federation moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. An annual budget shall be established. An auditing committee of three members, appointed by the President, with the consent of the Board, shall examine the records of the Treasurer during the last quarter of each fiscal year and shall report its findings to the membership at the annual meeting. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine. Both President and Treasurer shall sign all checks or orders for the payment of monies from the Federation when the sum is over \$500. Otherwise the signature of the Treasurer is sufficient. On or before December 1st of each year, the Treasurer shall send notice to the Treasurer of each member club notifying them that dues are due and payable. Delegates shall be informed of unusual and unforeseen expenditures prior to payment and have the right to reject or accept same.

Section 3. Attendance. The Board may dismiss any director or officer failing to attend a minimum of 2 Board meetings unless just cause is shown for the absence.

ARTICLE 4: ELECTIONS

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Section 1. Election of Officers. A Nominating Committee will be appointed at the March meeting and will present a slate of nominees to the membership at the May meeting. The Secretary will immediately notify the entire membership of candidates in writing, by email, and on the website. Annual elections will be held in June, at the time of the Annual membership meeting. Election will be by secret written ballot. Nominations may be accepted from the floor at June meeting. All nominees shall be present. No voting by proxy, telephone, or other media device will be permitted. Terms shall begin/terminate at the time of election.

Section 2. Terms of Office The President and Vice President shall serve 2 year terms. The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve 1 year terms. The immediate past president and “associate” director shall serve 1 year. Two Directors shall serve 2 year terms. Terms commence immediately upon election. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE 5: DUTIES OF CLUB DELEGATES.

Section 1. Duties of Delegates. Each dog club/organization shall provide the names of 3 members in good standing who are duly authorized to serve as Federation delegate(s). Every member club should have at least one delegate at each meetings of the Federation. Member club delegates :

- a) are responsible to communicate to their clubs news of the activities of the Federation.
- b) are responsible to communicate to the Federation reports from their individual clubs.
- c) shall have internet access and be able to communicate via e-mail.
- d) be empowered to conduct Federation business.
- e) shall have voting privileges

ARTICLE 6. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Discipline The Board of Directors shall reserve the right to prescribe and enforce it’s standard for membership on a case by case basis. If it is determined that a serious offense has occurred the offending member shall be entitled to resign. Failure of a member club, delegate, or associate member to comply with the provisions of this Constitution or substantially disregard the rights and prerogatives of other Federation member clubs, delegates, or associate members will subject the offender to immediate expulsion or a lesser penalty at the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE 7. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committee. There shall be four standing (permanent) committees. Each standing committee shall monitor a specific Federation activity. The actions of a committee are subject to the Board of Directors. Reports shall be provided monthly and/or at the request of the Board. The President shall appoint a chair to serve for an indefinite time.

- (a) Internal Affairs (501) This committee shall uphold and protect the internal affairs of the Federation
- (b) Legislative Affairs - This committee shall address/respond to legislative issues of concern to membership and coordinate all legislative activity.
- (c) Membership - This committee shall be responsible for the overall promotion of membership, determining membership needs, and developing outreach programs relative to those needs.
- (d) General Interest - This committee shall coordinate items of general interest (Breeder Directory, Calendar, Newsletter etc.)

Section 2. Committee Appointment. All club members will be encouraged to serve on one committee. The President may also appoint special committees as needed for particular projects with majority approval of the Board.

ARTICLE 8. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

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Section 1. Electronic Communication. Message boards, discussion groups, chat rooms and other means of electronic communication may be used to facilitate and discuss Federation Business. Voting may not occur electronically.

Section 2. E-Mail. Board members and delegates shall have access to e-mail and a computer.

ARTICLE 9. AMENDMENTS.

Section 1. Amendments (revisions or changes) to the Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed at meetings of the Federation for discussion among the delegates present, but shall not be voted upon at that time. The Internal Affairs (standing committee) will review the matters and be charged with reviewing the Constitution and By-Laws. Proposed changes shall be presented to the membership within three (3) months. Written notice of proposed changes shall be mailed (via email and/or US Postal Service) to all known delegates and members by the Secretary at least 21 (21) days prior to the date of the next regular meeting, posted on the Federation website, and published in the next newsletter.

Section 2. The amendment shall be voted upon at the next regular meeting following the proposal of such amendments and/or revisions. The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the clubs present.

ARTICLE 10. DISSOLUTION.

Section 1. The Federation may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the member clubs. In the event the dissolution of the Federation or the winding up of its affairs, or other liquidation of its assets, the Federation's property shall not be conveyed to any organization created or operated for profit or to any individual for less than the fair market value of such property, and all assets remaining or distributed only to an organization or organizations created and operated for nonprofit purposes similar to those of the Federation.

ARTICLE 11. ORDER OF BUSINESS.

Section 1. The order of business at Federation meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of order:

Roll Call
Minutes of last meeting
Report of Executive Board
Report of President
Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer
Report of Committees
Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
Unfinished Business
New Business
Adjournment

Section 2. In addition to the written Federation meeting minutes as recorded by the Secretary, minutes may be recorded by some type of medium - i.e. dictation machine, recorder, video, etc.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Short, Chair

"Bylaw Revision/501 Committee"

February 9, 2009

February 21, 2009

March 2, 2009

March 17, 2009

April 7, 2009

April 13, 2009

THE IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES OF RUSH LIMBAUGH AND HSUS.

The Sound Of The Voice That Sets Thoughts Astir.

---Permission to forward/cross-post in its entirety---

Rush Limbaugh's opening line is a radio talk show classic. "With half my brain tied behind my back - just to make it fair." It's a funny line, but many of his most ardent supporters have begun to wonder if it's time for him to stop phoning it in.

On April 16, Rush released two Public Service Announcements supporting the "Humane" Society of the United States (HSUS). It should be noted that their name is misleading - HSUS doesn't operate a single animal shelter in the U.S. With well over \$203 million in assets, less than 4% of their income goes to hands-on care of animals. True animal welfare advocates regard HSUS as, by far, the most dangerous "animal rights" organization in the country.

Mr. Limbaugh's advocacy for HSUS ignited a firestorm of outrage and protests from farmers, hunters, sportsmen, responsible pet owners, and political conservatives.

In a stroke of timing that seemed to bring the Irony Police pounding on the door, on Friday, April 17th, Mr. Limbaugh held his 19th Annual Cure-A-Thon for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). Although it was still ostensibly "Open Phone Lines Friday", calls protesting his HSUS support were refused. The call screener gave the excuse that Rush wanted to focus on the cause of Leukemia and Lymphoma.

I happen to know quite a bit about LLS. I've also done fundraising for them, but since I have no money or power, I did it the hard way - the way many Americans do - with Team In Training. This means that every dollar raised represents miles of blood, sweat and tears. Nothing like an Olympic-distance triathlon or half-marathon to prove you really want to cure cancer. Team In Training can be physically brutal, but the rewards are immeasurable - including friendships with remarkable Americans who are quite literally, fighting for their life every day. So Rush and I were on the same page on Friday April 17th, except for two things. I don't work with half my brain tied behind my back. And perhaps that's why I recognize that you can't support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and HSUS at the same time...

<http://kysoy.blogspot.com/>

From the HSUS website: "The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund are actively working to end animal testing—permanently."

Testing on non-human animals has been deemed necessary by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Americans for Medical Progress, the Foundation for Biomedical Research, Society for Neuroscience, the Deafness Research Foundation, and over 90 other charities and organizations working to alleviate suffering.

The deafness research is a connection impossible to ignore. In May of 2001, Mr. Limbaugh was diagnosed with a hearing problem, a result of an autoimmune inner-ear disease. In October, Rush told his listeners that he was almost entirely deaf. The richest talk show host in the country had lost 100 percent of the hearing in his left ear and 80 percent in his right ear. He was relying on a TelePrompTer and assistance from his staff to understand his callers.

A cochlear implant was placed in his left ear to restore his hearing. In January of 2002 Rush announced that he could hear his own radio show "for the first time in nearly four months via a medical marvel."

Since a myriad of reasonable arguments against Mr. Limbaugh's support of the "Humane" Society of the United States have fallen on deaf ears (seriously, no pun intended) - I decided to consult the opinion of one of our nation's most distinguished medical researchers on deafness.

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Dr. Edward Walsh is a neuroscientist whose research interests include two basic disciplines: developmental auditory neurobiology and animal bioacoustics. The central themes of these interests are congenital deafness and the development of acoustical conservation protocols to reduce extinction pressures facing certain endangered species.

I asked this expert for his educated opinion on the bizarre juxtaposition of Mr. Limbaugh's history and the new Rush/HSUS alliance. The passion of Dr. Walsh's response reveals more than a great mind. This scientist's heart is clearly in his work.

Dr. Ed Walsh: Rush Limbaugh would be deaf now, cut-off from "the sound of the voice that brings language, sets thoughts astir, and keeps us in the intellectual company of man," in the immortal words of Helen Keller, if it wasn't for Luigi Galvani. Galvani was a pioneering physician-scientist who roughly 200 years ago touched a statically charged metal probe to the detached hindquarter of a frog and watched the leg come to life, so to speak, twitching just as it had when attached to the living frog.

It was a watershed moment in the history of human experience; one of those instants in which fundamental insight is gained and the paradigm of life shifts forever. It was electricity it turned out, not fluids and humors, that activated muscles and nerves. The finding was revolutionary; it redirected the very course of biology, placing it onto a path that would lead directly to Limbaugh's prosthesis.

While Galvani's early reflections on the mechanism underlying the action that would one day come to be known as "bioelectricity" were incorrect, as are most first impressions, his observation triggered a long, continuous and productive sequence of scientific investigation that would lead ultimately to, among many other medical marvels, the development of the cochlear implant, the device that delivers sound driven electricity to the nerve fibers of the inner ear and connects Rush Limbaugh with the "sound of the human voice;" the device that allows him to maintain a popular radio talk show and fluently pontificate on the politics of the day.

Limbaugh is one of a rapidly growing number of profoundly deaf individuals who communicate verbally as easily and effectively as hearing individuals thanks to the advent of the cochlear implant. Galvani, along with his friend, colleague and frequent rival, Alessandro Volta, opened the eyes of the scientific community to the notion that all aspects of human sensation might be artificially activated through electrical stimulation.

Based on this profound observation, two hundred years of experimental biology involving non-human animals would be necessary to lay the foundation for preclinical and clinical efforts to realistically design and develop the prosthetic device that rescued Rush Limbaugh from a life of inescapable silence.

Today, non-human animal studies serve as the testing ground for implant revision and refinement that cannot be explored through direct experimentation on humans, in accordance with virtually all codes of morality and ethical responsibility accepted by the civilized world community.

Given all of this, it is with a sense of paradox that the popular radio talk show host is publicly supportive of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a misleading name suggesting that the group is somehow affiliated with the U.S. government, which, of course, it is not. Instead, HSUS is a prominent branch of the American animal rights movement that actively seeks "to end animal testing permanently." How is it that Limbaugh, the beneficiary of this 200-year-long line of non-human animal experimentation, finds the will to repudiate the process that has served him so well, and for which he has taken such clear advantage?

This disconnect, this failure to connect the dots that link animal experimentation with the development of the cochlear implant is simultaneously disconcerting and discouraging. It is disconcerting because it reveals with clarity the human capacity to comment with authority from a position of ignorance. It is discouraging because it reveals the predisposition of far too many to accept the view of a non-credentialed celebrity for no reason other than his or her celebrity.

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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	

I would respectfully suggest that Mr. Limbaugh look more carefully into the dogma of the American animal rights movement, of the Humane Society of the United States, and ask himself on what grounds he can accept the extraordinary benefit of the cochlear implant, or sponsor the work of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and simultaneously endorse a group with a radical agenda that would leave him deaf and thousands upon thousands of children hopeless in the face of life threatening diseases that include leukemia and lymphoma. I claim that he cannot.

Dr. Ed Walsh, PhD
May 4, 2009

Which leads to one final question. Rush, are you listening?



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