



# Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners



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**November-December 2009 Newsletter**

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*Official publication of the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs & Responsible Dog Owners*  
[www.fedmedogclubs.org](http://www.fedmedogclubs.org)

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## **MAINE: Senator proposes felony charge for puppy mills**

By Mal Leary, Capitol News Service

**November 25, 2009.**

AUGUSTA, Maine — Operators of animal breeding facilities often called “puppy mills” that do not follow state rules could be charged with a felony under a measure lawmakers will consider in January. “We need to do whatever we can to prevent these sorts of egregious situations from happening in Maine,” said Sen. Barry Hobbins, D-Saco. “This would allow a felony charge when you have a situation like we have seen in one town in my district and give a judge more flexibility to fashion appropriate probation conditions.”

In 2007, police and animal welfare officers raided a kennel in Buxton and found 250 dogs and puppies, many suffering from serious health problems. The owners were charged with operating an unlicensed kennel, as well as animal cruelty and failure to provide necessary medical treatment to animals. “While there were many misdemeanor charges, there is not a charge to take into account the magnitude of the offense,” Hobbins said. “This would allow that.”

He said the local district attorney, Mark Lawrence, brought the issue of establishing a new crime for operating a large puppy mill to his attention. A lawyer and member of the Legislature’s Judiciary Committee, Hobbins convinced legislative leaders to allow the measure into the session. He said creating the felony offense would allow more flexibility for a judge in fashioning penalties and setting conditions of the probation of a convicted offender. For example under his proposed legislation, a judge could set as a condition that the person be banned from operating a kennel for a period of time or require paying for the cost of caring for the abused or neglected animals. A misdemeanor carries a maximum of less than a year in the county jail, while a felony could mean up to five years in a state correctional facility.

Norma Worley, director of the State Animal Welfare Program said she has not seen a draft of Hobbins’ bill, but believes any legislation that will allow more flexibility in fashioning penalties would be an improvement. She said enforcement actions against large operations are costly.

“We still have not recovered from that 2007 case,” she said. “There were a lot of seriously sick dogs and puppies that had to be cared for and we just don’t have the budget to handle those large cases.” Worley said that while large cases are the exception there are a lot of smaller cases every year where her agency, local humane societies and volunteers step in to care for animals that need both treatment and adequate nutrition. She said it can take months before a dog or puppy is ready for adoption.

“When you have a case with five or 10 dogs, that is within the realm of our budget,” she said. “But these large cases, we just don’t have the resources.”

Worley said while there are serious problems with some kennel owners that warrant tougher laws, most follow existing laws and most care about the animals they are raising to be someone’s pet. Katie Lisnick, Maine director of the Humane Society of the United States agrees and says the state has few problems compared to other states.

“It is not as large a problem as it is say in the Midwest,” she said. “They have some huge, huge, huge facilities.”

But Lisnick added that in a rural state like Maine the problem might be larger than it appears because many cases go unnoticed. She said legislation such as the measure Hobbins has proposed is helpful in providing more tools for law enforcement to use in combating what amounts to animal abuse by some breeders.

“It’s fantastic to have as many options available to prosecutors and to judges as possible because each case is different,” she said. “I think those large cases should be taken very seriously.”

Hobbins said he has been pleased and surprised at the intensity of animal advocates he has spoken with about his proposal and the issues of animal cruelty and abuse. He said many have told him the elevation of serious abuse cases to a felony will act as a deterrent to some puppy mill operators.

Lisnick said anyone planning to buy a puppy, particularly in this holiday season, should take the time to visit the kennel where the puppy was born and check out the treatment of the dogs and the cleanliness of the facility.

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<http://blog.kennebunkpost.com/2009/11/25/distemper-outbreak-results-in-quarantine-printed-nov-27-2009.aspx>

## **MAINE: Distemper outbreak results in quarantine**

By Suzanne Hodgson  
Staff Writer

Mom’s chicken noodle soup, a warm blanket and tissues won’t help a dog with cold symptoms. But workers at Kennebunk’s Animal Welfare Society giving sick dogs some much-needed tender love and care appear to be doing just the trick.

Since early November the shelter has quarantined 29 dogs that have distemper, a highly contagious viral infection. “Shelters commonly see respiratory disease. It’s common in stressed environments where there are new and different things happening to them,” said Kerrie Robinson, director of development at the shelter.

After noticing in August some of the dogs seemed sick and had a cough, the shelter worked with local veterinarian Christ Angelos, Mann Memorial Clinic in Arundel and Miranda Spindel, a veterinarian with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, to diagnosis the problem. In October, the results were in: distemper.

“The 29 dogs exposed are on hold in quarantine. Any other dogs are available for adoption. We are not closed for adoption,” Robinson said.

The dogs were moved to 23 kennels for 90 days because distemper can spread for up to three months, even if they appear healthy. Co-manager Bobbi Allen said the virus spreads easily, even through something as unsuspecting as dogs being walked with the same leash.

While in quarantine, the shelter has set up a temporary play area for the dogs, and the animals have constant attention and daily obedience training from two full-time staff members.

“They’re not just locked up in a room,” Allen said.

While Allen and Robinson said the quarantine has not affected other adoptions at the shelter – they said most dogs usually are adopted within a week – especially puppies, which are hard to find in Maine. Robinson couldn't estimate how much the quarantine is costing the shelter in addition to the cost of two of the shelter's 25 full-time and part-time employees who are staying with the dogs.

“[The cost] depends on how much is donated – food, peanut butter, hotdogs – or are we going out and having to buy these things,” Robinson said.

Hannaford in Buxton dropped off food last Thursday afternoon and the staff members say they have seen a recent increase in donations.

Without the treatment provided to the dogs, distemper can lead to pneumonia or permanent neurological problems. Two ailing dogs at the shelter were euthanized because of neurological problems. The canine distemper virus cannot be treated once the animal is infected. The disease does not affect humans but can only be spread through some species of wildlife, such as wolves and skunks. “It could be local wildlife issue; distemper is everywhere,” Allen said.

The outbreak at the shelter also may have come from one of the many dogs from across the country the shelter adopts. Paws Across America, the shelters' organization that works with different shelters across the U.S. to help with overcrowding, especially in the southern states – Kennebunk's has 45 kennels. Distemper can be avoided if a dog has received its vaccination.

“If your dog's vaccinated, you're all set. It's not something to skimp on right now,” Robinson said. The shelter had to test all dogs that had been exposed to distemper and more than half the local dogs had no vaccine to help their immune systems fight off the illness.

Dogs that are vaccinated can be around sick dogs. Many members of the shelter who already have dogs are helping by taking one or more of the sick animals home to foster until the end of the quarantine. Jocelyn Layman has been working with the quarantined dogs for three days and has adopted one and is fostering another. Layman has three other dogs at home, but is comfortable playing with the sick dogs all day because her pets have been vaccinated.

“We all have multiple animals at home; none of us here are scared to be around these animals. We're working with these dogs all day,” said Allen.

The dogs that recover will be available for adoption around Feb.1. Photos of the quarantined dogs will be available at [www.animalwelfaresociety.or](http://www.animalwelfaresociety.or) for about a week before they are ready for adoption.

Staff Writer Suzanne Hodgson can be reached at 282-4337, ext. 233.

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**FMDCRDO PRIOR NOTICE OF MEETING: JANUARY 19, 2010 IN AUGUSTA**

# VERMONT: Court eyes value of love of man's best friend

Published - Dec 17 2009 06:32AM EST, by DAVE GRAM - Associated Press Writer



(AP Photo/Scheele Family)

*In this undated photo released by the Scheele family, their pet dog, Shadow, is seen in Annapolis, Md. Is a pet just a person's property, or something more? That's the question facing the Vermont Supreme Court, which hears arguments Thursday on whether a Maryland couple can recover for emotional damages in the fatal shooting of Shadow, a shepherd-chow-spaniel mix killed by a Northfield man when it wandered onto his property.*

MONTPELIER, Vt. Vermont's highest court is being asked to decide what a dog's love is worth. The state Supreme Court on Thursday was to hear a case that began in July 2003, when Denis and Sarah Scheele, who were visiting relatives, let their mixed-breed dog wander into Lewis Dustin's yard and he fatally shot it. Now the Scheeles are asking the court to carve out a new legal doctrine that a dog's owners can sue for emotional distress and loss of companionship, just like parents can when they lose children.

"We're still working toward having the courts recognizing the true value of companion animals. They're members of the family, not mere property," Sarah Scheele, 58, said from her home in Annapolis, Md., on Wednesday before flying north for the court hearing.

Dustin's lawyer, David Blythe, said Dustin never intended to kill the Scheeles' dog, Shadow, and "has always regretted that it happened." He said Dustin fired an air pellet rifle at the dog in hopes of scaring it off the lawn of his home in Northfield, a community of about 6,000 residents just south of Montpelier in the heart of the state's Green Mountains. The shot Dustin fired penetrated the dog's chest and severed an aorta, and the dog died on the way to a veterinarian's office. Dustin, 76, has said he was aiming at the dog's rear end. He did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment Wednesday. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty and was given a year probation. He also was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and pay \$4,000 in restitution to the Scheeles.

But the Scheeles weren't done. Sarah Scheele gave up her work as a meeting planner and has devoted her time since the dog's death to advocating for animal welfare and caring for the six special-needs dogs — most of them abused in the past — the couple has adopted in recent years. Denis Scheele, 50, continues to work as a plumber.

The Scheeles filed a civil suit against Dustin, pressing their claim that Shadow was more than a piece of property and that they could not be compensated just with reimbursement of what they paid to adopt him from an animal shelter, the veterinary bill that resulted from the shooting and the cost of his cremation.

Blythe, who owns a poodle and a maltipoo, said he would be very angry if someone shot one of his dogs. But he argued that the Scheeles aren't entitled to the legal remedy they're seeking.

Historically, laws across the country have limited sharply the ability of plaintiffs to collect damages for emotional loss. A parent can sue for emotional damage from the loss of a child, but a grandparent cannot for the loss of a grandchild under Vermont law, Blythe said. "If the court carved out this exception in the common law, it would put pet owners in a position that grandparents are not in terms of recovering emotional-distress damages," Blythe said. The court earlier this year ruled against a plaintiff seeking to collect for emotional distress when a cat's death resulted from a veterinarian's medication error.

One of the Scheeles' lawyers, Heidi Groff, said this case is different because Dustin acted with intent and malice when he shot Shadow. "All previous (Vermont) cases that have presented this issue have involved negligence," Groff said, "and we have something that we think is a great deal more serious than that."

The Scheeles are particularly devoted pet owners. They feed their dogs human food, brush the dogs' teeth and dress them in raincoats when it's wet outside. On a Web site devoted to Shadow's memory, they wrote, "Every day without you running and playing and cuddling with us is more difficult than the day before. The loss of your presence in our every moment is unbelievably painful. Not a moment passes that you are in our thoughts, our hearts and our prayers."

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## **MISSOURI: Cattlemen react to HSUS "puppy mill" proposal**

By Julie Harker, December 1, 2009

The Missouri State Director of the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) has filed two proposed initiative petitions cracking down on so-called "puppy mills" in the state. The petitions, filed by Barbara Schmitz of St. Louis, are under review by the Missouri Secretary of State's office. The proposed "Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act" proposes limiting to 50 the number of covered dogs a breeder can own and the offspring of which they could sell as pets.

Missouri Cattlemen's Association executive director Jeff Windett tells Brownfield it's an attempt by HSUS to eventually try and restrict animal agriculture in the state.

"As most people know, once they initiate something like this and get it into law, it's very easy to go back and change the wording to include livestock."

Windett says Missouri isn't going to let that happen, "I think we have demonstrated over the past couple of years at least that we've beat back HSUS and several of their initiatives within the legislative session."

Windett says all the ag commodity groups and major farm organizations in the state have formed the Missouri Animal Ag Coalition - which will fight any efforts by HSUS to limit animal agriculture production, "We recognize the fact that we have to stick together. It's going to take all of our talents and resources to be able to mount a public relations campaign with the public."

Windett wouldn't say whether Missouri would pursue a measure similar to Ohio's successful Issue Two, but he did say the coalition has meetings planned right away to work on their strategy.

HSUS tells Brownfield the organization has "no comments to offer on the ballot initiative" at this time.

<http://brownfieldagnews.com/2009/12/01/cattle-group-reacts-to-hsus-puppy-mill-proposal/>

<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2009/12/14-8>

## **National Lawyers Guild Releases Policy Paper on How Corporate Interests Influence State Terrorism Legislation**

NEW YORK - December 14 - The National Lawyers Guild has issued a policy paper showing the influence of model legislation drafted by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a conservative group of state legislators, on state legislation around the country.

Federal legislation passed in 2006, the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA), was largely drafted by ALEC and has drawn a great deal of attention and criticism from animal rights and environmental activists. The Act which purports to protect animal enterprises from so-called "eco-terrorists," is a vague and unnecessarily broad law that has already been used to restrict First Amendment rights. The Guild's policy paper, *Beyond AETA: How Corporate-Crafted Legislation Brands Activists as Terrorists*, explains that AETA is not unique in this respect. Similar bills have been introduced in several state legislatures over the last few years, and most of them stem from the model bill produced by ALEC.

ALEC's model legislation:

- Suggests adding the phrase "politically motivated" to the definition of an "animal or ecological terrorist organization," which clearly shows that the bill is designed to suppress speech based on its content.
- Defines illegal activity so broadly that anyone using the Internet or email to plan (or even express support for) an act of "animal or ecological terrorism" can be charged.
- Creates a "terrorist registry" - an online database open to the public which contains names, addresses and photos of everyone convicted of "animal or ecological terrorism."

NLG Executive Director Heidi Boghosian said: "Although many states considered and outright rejected the ALEC bill soon after its release, there are still signs that parts of the legislation are being incorporated in some states' laws that equate animal rights activists with domestic terrorism. The Guild remains vigilant in tracking the development of such overly-broad legislation."

The National Lawyers Guild was founded in 1937 and is the oldest and largest public interest/human rights bar organization in the United States. Its headquarters are in New York and it has chapters in every state.

Read the policy paper at [www.nlg.org](http://www.nlg.org)

*The National Lawyers Guild is dedicated to the need for basic and progressive change in the structure of our political and economic system. Through its members--lawyers, law students, jailhouse lawyers and legal workers united in chapters and committees--the Guild works locally, nationally and internationally as an effective political and social force in the service of the people.*

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[http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/nov09/091101e\\_pf.asp](http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/nov09/091101e_pf.asp)

<http://tinyurl.com/yffhlor>

## **FEDERAL: Senate takes up veterinary services bill**

The Senate version of the Veterinarian Services Investment Act was introduced Sept. 24 by Democrat Debbie Stabenow of Michigan with support from Republican John Thune of South Dakota and the backing of a bipartisan slate of 19 additional co-sponsors.

The Senate bill (S. 1709) is the companion bill to H.R. 3519, which was brought before the House in July. Both bills would establish a competitive grants program to relieve the nation's veterinary shortages and support various related activities, including recruitment, retention, and continuing education programs for veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Among those who would be eligible to apply for a grant are for-profit and nonprofit veterinary clinics in rural areas and "a state, national, allied, or regional veterinary organization, a specialty board, or veterinary medical association" recognized by the AVMA.

Veterinary schools and colleges, university research and veterinary medical foundations, departments of veterinary science and comparative medicine, state agricultural experiment stations, and state, local, and tribal government agencies would also be eligible to apply for grants under the VSIA.

"Too many rural communities lack adequate veterinary services that are important to our agricultural industry in Michigan," Stabenow said. "This legislation will address this shortage in veterinarian care, create good-paying jobs, and invest in food safety."

"Many people in rural states like South Dakota depend on healthy animals for their livelihood," Thune added. "This legislation will help draw and retain veterinarians in rural areas, increase the availability of veterinary education, and help veterinarians use technology to expand the reach of their practices."

More than 90 organizations have endorsed the VSIA, including every state veterinary medical association, specialty boards, and farm groups.

A few important differences exist between S. 1709 and H.R. 3519. In the Senate version, grant recipients are required to match federal funds with 25 percent of in-kind support, whereas the House bill mandates a higher rate of 50 percent.

"A lower funding threshold, especially in times when budgets are so tight, is really necessary," said Gina Luke, an assistant director of the AVMA Governmental Relations Division. The AVMA has played a key role in getting VSIA introduced in Congress.

In addition, S. 1709 includes language directing the Agriculture secretary to promulgate regulations implementing the grant program within one year of enactment. The House bill does not.

And finally, the titles of the bills vary slightly: H.R. 3519 is the Veterinarian Services Investment Act while S. 1709 is the Veterinary Services Investment Act. The AVMA prefers the latter title.

Neither bill specifies a dollar amount, only "such sums as necessary" to fulfill the objectives outlined in the legislation.

S. 1709 was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 3519 has been under consideration by the House Agriculture Committee since July. H.R. 3519 has 30 bipartisan co-sponsors. The day the Senate bill was introduced, Rep. Adrian Smith of Nebraska spoke on the House floor about why the VSIA is

needed to ease the national shortage of food animal veterinarians.

The AVMA's Gina Luke said the Association has a strategy to get the VSIA passed in the current 111th Congress, and it includes a vibrant grassroots campaign involving AVMA members.

"We have a lot of work to do, and our members have a lot of work to do," Luke said. "They have to be involved in carrying this message forward and getting their members of Congress onboard and enthusiastic, particularly those who sit on the House and Senate agriculture committees."

AVMA members are encouraged to ask their elected officials in Congress to support the VSIA. Go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/> to see who's supporting the bill. Type in the bill number and select co-sponsors. Also visit the AVMA-CAN Government Action Center on the AVMA Web site ([www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)) by clicking on "Get Involved" in the Advocacy section. For more information about the bill, contact Gina Luke at the GRD at (800) 321-1473, Ext. 3204, or at [gluke@avma.org](mailto:gluke@avma.org).

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## **[A HSUS 2008 Fundraising Contract Snapshot](#)**

Sunday, November 29, 2009, 7:24:11 PM | ESaunders AR-HR.com

The 2008 Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) [Tax Filings](#) became available for public viewing this week. (click [here](#)) The full 2008 filing is located under the Annual Filing for Charitable Organizations link that does not have a date beside it. Although it is lengthy reading, it is well worth close review by any individual considering donating to the HSUS for a less varnished portrait of how donations are truly being used.

This Annual filing also includes the contracts signed with fundraising organizations, allowing a close inspection of how much of the money raised is retained by these organizations. For example, did you know:

- For some fund-raising organizations, the HSUS has agreed to potentially receive only 0-1% of the pledged revenue (pg 30-36 of 370, contractual minimums) and pay up to \$51/calling hour, not including additional expenses?(pg 25 of 370).
- For other organizations, the HSUS has agreed to specifically receive between 0.1-2% of gross revenue, "Organization agrees that DSG shall be compensated pursuant to the terms of the agreement which is estimated to be ninety- eight percent (98%) of gross revenue." (pgs 136-138 of 370)
- \$8850/month @ 54hours/month (\$163.80/hr) for "Internet consulting services" related to online communications and Internet based relationship building (after July 2008) (pg 82 of 370)
- \$16000/month @ 88 hours/month (\$181.82/hour) for Internet consulting services" related to online communications and Internet based relationship building (prior to July 2008) (pg 97 of 370) (pg 142 of 370)
- The Humane Society of the United States contracts with offshore telemarketing firms? (pg 127 of 370)

As always, donate to an organization you believe in and that is using your funds the way you intend them to be used.

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<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=2349733&p=1>

## The right to breed

The state that has no business in the bedrooms of the nation seeks to insert itself into the fallopian tubes of its poodles

**Catherine McMillan, National Post.** Published: Thursday, December 17, 2009

I still recall my first visit to the Small Animal Clinic at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon. As the young resident took down my puppy's health history, she advised that if I spayed my little dog before her first heat cycle, the risk of mammary cancer could be eliminated.

"Good to know," I replied. "But how will that affect her future as my foundation bitch?"

Some 25-plus years later, "Peras" has hundreds of champion descendants across six continents, while I am quite likely the first and only commercial artist to co-author a peer-reviewed paper for the American Journal of Veterinary Ophthalmology.

That young resident's words were a warning, though I didn't know it at the time. Veterinary medicine, once an equal partner with breeders, sportsmen, and food producers, is being transformed by an activist viewpoint that reduces owners to "guardians" and elevates health providers to the self-appointed role of animal "advocate."

"Spay and neuter" has achieved cult mantra. Dog breeders are held in suspicion: The only good dog is the "natural" one. Defects are blamed on breed standards, despite the fact that the majority of purebreds are produced by family pets and commercial breeders, their puppies as far removed from the show ring as a second-hand pickup from the Formula One track.

This attitude is reflected by provincial boards that recently have moved to impose bans on ear cropping and tail docking. Though long the subject of some controversy, these procedures serve both aesthetic and practical ends, injury prevention and hygiene among them.

This current turf war over puppy tails is just a preview of coming attractions. The state that has no business in the bedrooms of the nation seeks to insert itself into the fallopian tubes of its poodles. A Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) director recently recounted the hostile atmosphere at a recent meeting with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA): "These vets are not only speaking of cropping and docking. Several, led by New Brunswick, are openly critical of the CKC's breed standards, feel that breeders are poorly educated with respect to health, genetics and breeding practices to support an animal's welfare and are censorious of breeders -- in particular those breeders who breed conformation dogs for show. They are criticizing our standards for individual breeds and are of the opinion that we are not supporting the puppy purchasers with healthy dogs."

To achieve this, they hint at legislation. After all, who better to condemn the docking of a puppy's tail than the person who will, in a few weeks time, slice open her abdomen to remove a healthy uterus? Who better to seek criminalization of ear cropping than a profession that declaws kittens for profit?

For as often as they're consulted by media and policy makers on matters canine, a veterinarian receives no training in basic breed identification, much less the diverse origins and forces that shape gene pools. It's unreasonable to expect them to -- it takes a lifetime of study to master a single breed, much less hundreds.

The film Best in Show presented the dog-show circuit as a caravan of loopy narcissists. Omitted from the script were the contributions of the fancy to everyday canine society -- rescue efforts, training classes, consumer advice, the millions raised, the efforts donated to health research.

There is no profit in showing dogs, for costs quickly negate the returns. It's an esoteric pursuit, driven by love of breed, competitive reward, and that appreciation of form and symmetry shared by all artists, a thing we know as "beauty." The Doberman's "look of eagles," the merle collie's loud and luxurious coat, the silhouette of the Skipperke -- those things that fill the eye can determine the fate of breeds, for it is their beauty that so often attracts and inspires human beings to devote resources to their perpetuation. The distance between a breed and extinction is five years, for this is the average reproductive lifespan of a female. For rare breeds and those with limited genetic diversity, it takes only one ill-conceived edict on the part of policy makers to start it down the road to collapse.

It seems like a small thing, this battle for a veterinarian's liberty to practice as he sees fit, a dog breeder's quest for perfection. After all, no one needs to crop ears on a Boxer. But then again, no one needs a Boxer at all, or any sort of pet. Purebreds (of all species) carry health risks derived from their genetic founding fathers. Breeds weren't created to compile longevity records, but to perform tasks for mankind -- to dispatch vermin, predators, and enemy barbarians, locate game, retrieve over water, to pull sleds, or warm a dowager's bed on a cold winter night. And so, they remain imperfect.

The Borzoi is living history of czarist Russia, the giant Mastiff a modern echo of ancient Rome -- but they suffer high rates of bloat. Poster artists recruited the English bulldog as a symbol of resolve in World War II, but the massive head that encouraged a nation results in caesarian sections. The Dalmatian's spots are beloved of Disney and children everywhere, but the genetics that create them can result in deafness. The merry spaniel can wag an undocked tail to bloody pulp, but no one hunts woodcock in these parts. Better no cocker, they say, than no tail.

Like so many other small things in this brave new humane world -- history, property rights, individual liberty, and the beholder's permission to declare something "beautiful" -- the eradication of the purebred dog is underway, aided and abetted by those we once considered friends. And yet, to this breeder at least, so seldom has one small thing carried with it such symbolism for what it is we are allowing them to destroy.

There is an air of nihilism in what they do. Like "green" zealots who insist millions will die from climate change unless we reduce the earth's population by billions, their ideological sisters in veterinary activism would solve the problems of purebred dogs by eliminating them altogether. They seem oddly disconnected from the reality that for veterinary medicine to survive, the patient must reproduce.

- Catherine McMillan lives in Saskatchewan and runs the blog "Small Dead Animals." In 2009, Miniature Schnauzers descending from her "Minuteman" kennel line include those ranked #1 in the breed in the USA, Canada, Brazil and England, along with the #2 MS in Australia and the Jr. World Winner at the World Show in Slovakia.

Read more: <http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=2349733&p=2#ixzz0aFDCLBQG>  
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<http://www.ukcdogs.com/WebSite.nsf/Articles/LegislativeUpdate06012009>

## **An Obituary For Words**

by Cindy Cooke

You can't really ban a word. In fact, an attempt to ban something often backfires, particularly in the United States, where we don't like people censoring our speech. So I'm not going to tell you not to say "puppy mill". I'm going to give you some very good reasons for not using that phrase.

I speak to a lot of dog clubs and frequently hear dog breeders supporting so-called "anti-puppy-mill" laws. When I ask these people to define "puppy mill," invariably the definitions given include:

- People who "overbreed" their dogs;
- People who don't take care of their dogs;
- People who have too many dogs;
- People who breed dogs "just for money"; and
- People who don't take health issues into account when breeding their dogs.

Let's look at these definitions in turn. What is "overbreeding"? In the wild, most canids can only reproduce once a year. Most domestic dogs can have two litters a year. When I first became a dog breeder, it was almost a religious belief that no female dog should be bred more than once a year. We were told that it was important to "rest" the uterus between litters. Today, however, thanks to advances in veterinary medicine, we know that an uterus is actually damaged by the elevated progesterone levels that occur in each heat cycle, whether the dog is pregnant or not. Veterinary reproduction specialists recommend that dogs be bred on their second or third heat cycle, that we do more back-to-back breedings, and that we spay the dogs at around age six.

The "overbreeding" argument also treats reproduction as something that female dogs wouldn't do if they had a choice. Dogs aren't people - female dogs actually want to be bred when they're in heat and, with few exceptions, enjoy raising their puppies. It's not an unwelcome event for dogs.

People who don't take care of their dogs are already guilty of a crime in all 50 states. There is nowhere in the United States where it is legal to neglect or abuse dogs. Sadly, a small minority of all dog breeders - commercial, home and hobby - commit neglect and abuse. Some of these do so out of ignorance, some out of laziness, and some out of meanness. All are already breaking the law. It just needs to be enforced.

One of our biggest problems now is that animal radicals insist that every dog be raised like a hothouse flower. One bill proposed this year would have required every kennel to be air conditioned. Many owners of working dogs prefer that their dogs be acclimated to hot weather so that they can work when the temperature goes up. Likewise, sled dogs in the north often sleep outdoors in the snow. Dogs can live and thrive in a wide range of environments. The Arctic Circle, the jungles of Africa, and the deserts of Arabia have all produced breeds of dogs that can live happily in conditions that might not suit all dogs. It is important that we not let activists redefine the needs of dogs to the extent that we are forced to provide a brass bed and a down pillow for every animal in the kennel!

What is “too many” dogs? Most of our breeds were developed by wealthy people who kept large numbers of dogs. Hound breeders traditionally kept good-sized packs, and early show breeders did as well. Now that our sport includes more mainstream people - people with jobs or people who need jobs - it’s hard for many of us to keep large numbers of dogs. There is no inherent link between numbers of dogs and neglect. People who have the resources to keep big kennels provide a service for all of us, particularly if they maintain a good number of useful stud dogs.

Breeding dogs is expensive, and getting more so daily. It’s just plain silly to pretend that none of us needs the money generated by puppy sales and stud services. Without that income, the vast majority of middle class breeders could not afford this sport. When our sport was solely in the hands of rich people, it was the norm to sneer at people in “trade”, and part of that attitude was handed down to us with the culture of our sport. Today, however, the majority of us in the sport are “in trade”, in the sense that we have to work to support ourselves. Our dogs must, at least in part, support themselves or most of us would have to get out of the game.

We have among us a small but vociferous group of people who think that breeders only care about producing great hunting or show dogs, and nothing about health. In fact, I’ve never met a breeder who wasn’t concerned about the health of his dogs and the health of his breed. Most health problems in dogs don’t have simple solutions, so it is only natural that breeders are often going to disagree about how to address health problems. When there’s no right answer to a question, then breeders who follow a different path than you might choose are not necessarily wrong or unconcerned. I know that many believe that commercial breeders don’t care about health, but the fact is that their professional organizations provide some of the most sophisticated health seminars in the country for their breeders.

Twenty years ago, animal activists created the phrase “puppy mill”. Back then, it was only applied to commercial breeders, and then only to those who were breaking the law by neglecting their dogs. In a futile attempt to placate activists, many hobby breeders adopted the term “puppy mill” and used it to separate “them” from “us”. It was a mistake then, and it’s rapidly becoming fatal today. Every one of these so-called “anti-puppy-mill bills” has a definition that could easily include breeders of hunting and show dogs. Every time you use that phrase, you’re contributing to the idea that dog breeders need to be regulated out of existence.

The message we need to send to America is that purebred dogs are good, not just because they have pedigrees, but because of their predictability, and that people should shop at least as carefully for a puppy as they do for a car. We don’t need to help the animal radicals spread their message by using their favorite term: puppy mill.

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<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2009/nov/12/animal-lovers-should-stop-sending-money-to-zealots/?print-friendly>

<http://tinyurl.com/yjk5j2q>

## **Animal lovers should stop sending money to zealots**

**By Rich Landers, The Spokesman-Review, November 12, 2009**

I took a beating in the letters-to-the-editor pages a few weeks ago for pointing out the threat national-scale animal rights groups pose to the sports of hunting and fishing.

Now I'm turning the other cheek.

Readers shouldn't assume that the published letters were the only reaction.

Nor should they think the threat these groups pose is limited to hunters and anglers.

The published letters came mostly from one group of Spokane-area animal rights activists and Wayne Pacelle, the national figurehead for the Humane Society of the United States.

But many phone calls and e-mails called for more scrutiny of these groups and the moral fascism they are trying to impose on society's use and enjoyment of animals.

One veterinarian pointed out that these groups are clawing their way through legal and legislative channels toward giving pets individual rights rather than leaving them designated as the property of their owners.

The vet said that, among other problems, this would have huge repercussions in the costs of veterinary care and liability.

"Can you imagine the costs of routine pet procedures if we have to run unnecessary tests and insure ourselves for protection against possible multimillion-dollar lawsuits?" he said.

One e-mail came from a woman who works with a small-town animal welfare organization that does the dirty work of caring for the epidemic of lost, abused or unwanted pets. She thanked me for pointing out that these local nonprofit animal rescue groups - including the local Humane Societies that have no connection with the Humane Society of the United States - are always scrapping for money to do their work.

"I used to donate (to HSUS), years ago, but all the money seemed to go to mailings with another free key chain and a request for more money," she wrote. "I was never sure that my donation was helping homeless animals.

"I now only donate locally, like to the Spokane Humane Society, or to our organization, where 100 percent of funds are spent on vet care."

This woman, the veterinarian and others asked not to be identified because they didn't want to endure the crap animal rights groups like to dish out to dissenters.

Speaking out publicly can start a smear campaign and financial burden for a pet care professional or local animal charity.

A story in Tuesday's paper detailed how the HSUS, PETA and other animal rights zealots are trying to prevent the use of animals in veterinary training and biomedical research.

Medical and veterinary students cannot learn the complexities of hemorrhage on a computer model. Period.

Scientists who are trying to find cures for diseases and test surgical procedures and devices are having their lives threatened by the moral fascists.

"I'd rather see (animals) euthanized than go to a research facility," said Minnesota Animal Rights Coalition president Charlotte Cozzetto.

These are the nuts who are draining millions of dollars from the checking accounts of little old ladies and others in the uninformed masses who think they are saving puppies and kittens.

But in most cases, these national groups donate little or nothing back to the actual care and welfare of those unwanted animals that are euthanized by the hundreds of thousands every year.

Pacelle smugly wrote The Spokesman-Review to charge me with misinforming the public about the ramifications of his recent testimony before the Supreme Court. He said the case had nothing to do with possibly making hunters and anglers criminals for being filmed or photographed with their quarry.

What he failed to say was that it was Justices Scalia, Sotomayor and others in the Supreme Court chambers who were making that association, not this lowly scribe in Spokane.

He also failed to acknowledge the numbers I shared with readers from the HSUS tax forms showing that more than half of the \$4.8 million the group raised in one year for its feeble facade of creating wildlife sanctuaries goes back into mailing and propaganda.

This is the huge difference between sportsmen-supported wildlife conservation groups and national animal zealot groups.

When you write a check to Ducks Unlimited, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation or The Nature Conservancy, the money goes into preserving habitat for wildlife survival and human quality of life.

A check written to HSUS largely supports moral fascism.

These zealots must constantly squeal about animal atrocities, because to be reasonable and effective would curtail the heavy flow of cash into their pockets.

Contact Rich Landers at 509 459-5508 or [richl@spokesman.com](mailto:richl@spokesman.com).

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*A SAOVA message to sportsmen, pet owners and farmers concerned about protecting their traditions, avocations and livelihoods from anti-hunting, anti-breeding, animal guardianship advocates. Forwarding and cross posting, with attribution, is encouraged. <http://saova.org>*

## **It's All About Numbers**

**By Susan Wolf**

Recently HSUS (Humane Society of the United States) aired an announcement on their website congratulating Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, and the state legislature for enacting a law "to regulate large scale puppy producing operations, known as puppy mills." AB 250 regulates anyone who sells more than 25 dogs or 3 litters a year. In HSUS language, this separates small-scale breeders from puppy mills.

HSUS continues by stating, "In addition to Wisconsin, bills to regulate puppy mills were enacted by the 2009 state legislatures in Arizona, Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Nebraska, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Washington." WRONG! In their zeal to pat themselves on the back and keep the momentum alive for potential success in their multi-million dollar campaign to regulate dog breeders, HSUS forgot how to count! It seems they also forgot to check the results as posted on their own website. Arizona bill HB2517, sponsored by Rep. Nancy Young Wright (D, 26), failed as did Nebraska LB677 sponsored by Sen. Ken Haar (District 21).

In an unprecedented drive, HSUS introduced 33 commercial breeder/regulation/ licensing bills across the country from late 2008 thru 2009. Of these 21 died, 8 passed; 4 are pending – due to either the legislatures still in session or bills qualifying to be held over for 2010. Full listing is available on the SAOVA website [http://www.saova.org/news/StateBreederBill\\_s2009.pdf](http://www.saova.org/news/StateBreederBill_s2009.pdf)

Numbers played a huge role in the drafting and promotion of the HSUS commercial breeder/regulation/ licensing bills – a long name to use but I am loathe to call them "puppy mill" bills even long enough to write this commentary.

What is the definition of commercial or large scale dog breeding? The answer according to HSUS appears to depend on what the region can be convinced to believe. To crack down on alleged puppy mills in Washington State, HSUS determined 10 intact females was the magic number; Tennessee, Montana Minnesota, and others used 20 as the beginning point for licensing; North Carolina's commercial breeder bill was set at 15, and in Illinois HSUS determined that only by licensing breeders beginning with 3 intact females would the state be saved from being overrun with puppy mills. One HSUS state director recently explained – a hobby breeder is someone with 6 who breeds only one or two litters a year; anything more than that is a commercial breeder/puppy mill.

Another strategy in the HSUS legislation is to limit breeders by placing caps on ownership. A 25-dog magic number was proposed in legislation this year as the limit of breedable dogs one could own in Colorado, Delaware, Oregon, Massachusetts, and Washington.

There is no logic to the idea that an owner can care for 25 dogs but not 26, or even 100. Ownership caps

are nothing more than a limitation of personal rights and the ability to build a breeding program, run a business, or earn a living.

### **USING NUMBERS TO CREATE A CRISIS**

To keep legislation moving, it is always useful to have a crisis at hand. HSUS claims there are more than 10,000 large, puppy mills housing 200,000 to 400,000 breeding dogs producing up to 4 million puppies a year. If Americans add approximately 8 million dogs to their households a year and HSUS also claims nearly 50% of these come from friends, is HSUS saying the other 50% come from substandard sources?

In Tennessee before the commercial breeder bill was enacted, HSUS claimed 10,000 puppies were for sale every day in the state. In North Carolina, HSUS claims their previous estimate of 200 puppy mills was in error –the number is actually 400 and growing as the state is becoming home to breeders fleeing states where regulatory laws have been passed. Illinois voters were urged to enact Chloe's Bill before the onslaught of puppy mills could become a blight on the State's reputation.

The same sound bites are distributed in every state with a pending breeder bill and the proclaimed crisis of abuse or overpopulation is NOT new.

In "The Humane Society of the U.S.: It's Not about Animal Shelters" Daniel Oliver writes:

"HSUS promotes restrictions on pet breeding and ownership that would sharply limit the supply of pets and ultimately deny many responsible pet owners the pet of their choice. It maintains that there is a 'raging pet-overpopulation crisis . . . an appalling overabundance of dogs and cats caused by human carelessness and irresponsible breeding.' Because an estimated 4.5 million dogs and cats are euthanized each year in the U.S., HSUS has called for the elimination of large dog breeding kennels and the enactment of mandatory pet sterilization laws."

Oliver continues that in 1993, HSUS proposed mandatory pet sterilization laws and high license fees to deal with alleged pet overpopulation. HSUS called on local, county, and state legislators to enact either voluntary or mandatory dog and cat breeding bans and to initiate mandatory pet sterilization laws, including a two-year moratorium on all breeding. For each puppy or kitten born in violation of the moratorium, the owner or person possessing the animal would pay a penalty of \$100.

### **TAKING BACK THE INITIATIVE**

To quote Washington, D.C. analyst Steve Kopperud, "The problem we have has almost doubled because we have allowed the activists to define us; we have allowed the activists to tell the public what we do and how we do it and frankly, we're sitting back and continuing to allow that to happen."

We are the experts and must take back that role. We must get our message back to the public and to our legislators. We can no longer afford to have HSUS and animal rightist philosophers frame the issues, labeling us as exploiters and legislating away our rights. The battle will begin again in 2010 and we need to be ready.

Keep up to date on the issues at SAOVA's new blog: <http://saovanews.blogspot.com/>

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## **Legislator & Lobbyists Tell all in Conference Call: “We need to take charge”**

By Wyoma Clouse. America's Pet Registry, Inc. Keeping You Informed

*I don't know if any others of you signed in on the teleconference - my clock was 'ticking', but once they got going, it was very good. I listened from 6 MST, they started with the various speakers about 6:20, and I stuck with it until 7:45... missing our club program which was our local veterinary ophthalmologist.*

Basic message was that we need to take charge. We need to get to know as many of our legislators as possible, well enough to get face recognition to develop a personal relationship with elected official/legislator. Get to know chairs of the Ag, Judicial, whichever most likely to handle animal legislation.

Have your message - practice, be able say what you need to say in the first two sentences because you may not have more time than that - officials/legislators may be busy, busy, you only have elevator time, or a walk down the hallway time. Be polite, never whine, never lie, never exaggerate, always be honest, never threaten. Offer your help as a reference expert on animal issues. If you don't know the answer, find out, and get back to them. Supply them with good accurate information, help them look good. Show them the alternative view of responsible dog ownership, responsible dog breeding. Carry a business card, leave one even if you visit and they aren't available - write a quick point, sign name. Over and over, the speakers said to get to know your elected officials, your legislators, as many as possible, as well as possible.

You are the target, don't even think you can hide below the radar - the activists know who you are and where you live, they will spend their time figuring out how to tweak the laws to get you, and they have the press on their side. One photo of your dog having a bad hair day or a gummy eye, and you are dead meat... that's enough to get a search warrant, and they will bring the press with them. You will never be able to do enough to satisfy the activists. At the rate they are losing breeders in Missouri, there will be no registered breeders in Missouri within two years.....

Don't allow use of the term "puppy mill" by ANYONE. Stop the conversation, tell them that "puppy mill" is not a legal term, and is a pejorative slang term, no different than racial slurs. Take control - if you don't, the HSUS will continue to beat you down. Say that we have responsible breeders and we have substandard breeders, and please use those terms. Publicly condemn substandard breeders. We are the responsible breeders. Tell the positive story, tell what responsible breeders do. Have the facts and use them.

Take the argument away from the activists, come out ahead of time with the statement (phrasing suggested earlier): The (group) condemns all substandard kennels which reflect poorly on the vast majority of responsible breeders who have demonstrated by their actions that they are in compliance with existing animal welfare laws and regulations, and that they truly care about the health and welfare of their animals. Credibility is the issue, and you have to constantly educate officials/legislators. Local or state legislators will really read a handwritten letter - keep it short, keep to the facts, and say what you want to

happen. Don't bother writing to US Senators & Representatives - letters take 6 wks to get thru the anthrax process. Phone, email. Form letters are useless. Use your own words always. Let them know you are a constituent. Be somewhat judicious in your contacts - pick your battles.... a dozen letters a year are likely to wear out your credibility.

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## **Federation of Maine Dog Clubs & Responsible Dog Owners**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 15, 2009**

**Augusta City Center, Augusta, Maine**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Casco Bay Dog Training Club represented by delegate Kathy Wilson.  
Central Maine Brittany Club represented by delegates Gary Anderson, Ann Short & John Short.  
Down East Sled Dog Club represented by delegate Sara Vanderwood.  
Kennebec Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club represented by delegate Sherry Pierce.  
Lewiston Auburn Kennel Club represented by delegate Kathy Wilson.  
Maine Beagle Association represented by delegate Perry Moore.  
Maine Retriever Trial Club represented by delegate Sue Westlake.  
Maine-ly Toy Dog Club represented by delegate Kathy Wilson.  
North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, Yankee Chapter, represented by delegates Todd Chrisman & Amanda Rizner.  
Penobscot Hunting Retriever Club represented by delegates Susan Robichaud and David Robichaud.  
Penobscot Valley Kennel Club represented by delegates Sharon St. John & Nancy Daniels.  
Vacationland Kennel Club represented by delegate Lynne Wolfe.  
York County Kennel Club represented by delegates Ann Short, Tracey Benson & Jay Kitchener.

#### **ABSENT:**

Central Aroostook Kennel Club  
Central Maine Kennel Club  
Coastal Crescent Kennel Club  
Collie Club of Maine  
Down East Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater Portland  
Mid Coast Kennel Club  
Pine Tree Golden Retriever Club

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

President Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Secretary Kitchener certified a quorum present.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

One clarification was made to the November minutes regarding the Shelter Project . The initial letter to shelters will come from one person in FMDCRDO, then follow up will occur by delegates according to their geographic area in the state. Delegate Sue Westlake of the Maine Retriever Trial Club made the motion to accept the November minutes as amended. Delegate & Treasurer Sharon St. John of the Penobscot Valley Kennel Club seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Sharon St. John, delegate representing the Penobscot Valley Kennel Club, presented a written report. Delegate Perry Moore of the Maine Beagle Association made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Delegate Lynne Wolfe of the Vacationland Dog Club seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES:**

**Legislative Committee:** President Anderson announced that the 2010 FMDCRDO Legislative Committee will be co-chaired by Delegate Lynne Wolfe of the Vacationland Dog Club and Delegate Sara Vanderwood of the Down East Sled Dog Club.

(Delegates John & Ann Short of the Central Maine Brittany Club & York County Kennel Club, and delegates Todd Chrisman & Amanda Rizner of the Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA joined the meeting at 6:15 pm.)

**Internal Affairs Committee:** No report.

**Membership Committee:** No report.

**General Interest Committee:** No report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Brief discussion of holiday cards to elected officials clarified sending only cards at this time. Delegate and Vice President Nancy Daniels of the Penobscot Valley Kennel Club made the motion to have President Anderson print and send the holiday cards to elected officials. Delegate Perry Moore of the Maine Beagle Association seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(Delegate Sherry Pierce of the Kennebec Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club joined the meeting at 6:20 pm.)

Discussion turned to success of 2010 Online Breeder & Rescue Directory which has attracted an excellent number of breeders and rescue contacts. Delegate Sherry Pierce of the Kennebec Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club expressed concern that her club did not receive listing cards for the directory. President Anderson volunteered to contact all delegates in all clubs via email to afford them an additional opportunity to have a listing in the directory.

Delegate Sherry Pierce of the Kennebec Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club asked for clarification regarding the printing and distribution of the Online Breeder & Rescue Directory. President Anderson clarified that delegate Nola Soper of the Coastal Crescent Kennel Club will print and send post cards announcing the 2010 Online Breeder & Rescue Directory to all veterinarians and shelters in the state.

Discussion turned to 2010 FMDCRDO dues renewal. Delegate Sherry Pierce of the Kennebec Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club expressed concern that her club has not received a dues renewal notice. President Anderson clarified that dues renewal notices will be sent online.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

President Anderson led a lengthy discussion about assessing member clubs for the cost of legislative lobbying efforts. The discussion led to the motion being made by delegate Perry Moore of the Maine Beagle Association to create an ad hoc Budget Committee. This motion was seconded by delegate Lynne Wolfe of the Vacationland Dog Club. A Budget Committee was formed chaired by delegate Sue

Westlake of the Maine Hunting Retriever Trial Club. Budget Committee members are delegate and Treasurer Sharon St. John of the Penobscot Valley Kennel Club; delegate Perry Moore of the Maine Beagle Association; and delegate Kathy Wilson of the Casco Bay Dog Training Club, the Lewiston Auburn Kennel Club, and the Maine-ly Toy Dog Club.

President Anderson led another lengthy discussion about retaining a professional lobbyist for our organization's legislative lobbying efforts. Delegate Sherry Pierce of the Kennebec Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club asked if the board could research other lobbyists and report back to the delegates. Secretary Kitchener responded that such research had been done in 2007.

Delegate and Legislative Committee Co-Chair Sara Vanderwood of the Down East Shetland Sheepdog Club stressed the importance of achieving proportional representation of the diverse groups within FMDCRDO on the Legislative Committee.

Delegate Perry Moore of the Maine Beagle Association made the motion to retain Newell Augur, Esq. through the emergency legislative session of 2010 and to have Mr. Augur work directly under the supervision of the FMDCRDO Legislative Committee and to have said committee report back to the delegates of our organization. Delegate Tracey Benson of the York County Kennel Club seconded the motion. With this motion made and seconded, the assembled delegates agreed to temporarily set aside this motion in order to form the remainder of the FMDCRDO Legislative Committee.

The FMDCRDO Legislative Committee was formed with the following seven delegates:

- Co-Chair Lynne Wolfe of the Vacationland Dog Club to represent canine competitive performance interests on the FMDCRDO Legislative Committee.
- Co-Chair Sara Vanderwood of the Down East Sled Dog Club to represent sled dog interests on the committee.
- Delegate Dave Robichaud of the Penobscot Hunting Retriever Club to represent the interests of boarding and training kennels on the committee.
- Delegate Tracey Benson of the York County Kennel Club to represent canine competitive conformation events on the committee.
- Delegate Todd Chrisman of the Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA to represent \_\_\_\_\_ interests on the committee.
- Delegate Ann Short of the Central Maine Brittany Club and the York County Kennel Club to represent the interests of hunting dog owners on the committee.
- Delegate Kathy Wilson of the Casco Bay Dog Training Club, the Lewiston Auburn Kennel Club, and the Maine-ly Toy Dog Club to represent hobby breeders on the committee.

Delegate Perry Moore of the Maine Beagle Association made the motion to accept the FMDCRDO Legislative Committee. Delegate Sue Westlake of the Maine Retriever Trial Club seconded the motion. The motion carried.

With the FMDCRDO Legislative Committee formed, the motion to retain Mr. Newell Augur was brought back to the delegates. The motion carried.

Discussion then turned to the options presented by Mr. Augur for his fee structure. Delegate and Legislative Committee Co-Chair Sara Vanderwood of the Down East Sled Dog Club made the motion to accept option number three from Mr. Augur. This option structures Mr. Augur's fees at a significantly lower rate than in the past. This motion was seconded by delegate Perry Moore of the Maine Beagle Association. Motion carried.

Delegate Todd Chrisman of the Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA proposed “Odin’s Law” to begin to address the problem of lack of oversight of diseased dogs being brought into the state by rescue groups and shelters. Due to time constraints of our organization’s meeting facility, delegate Chrisman’s proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

Delegate John Short of the Central Maine Brittany Club made the motion to adjourn. Delegate Lynne Wolfe of the Vacationland Kennel Club seconded the motion. There being no further business to conduct, President Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Secretary Jay Kitchener on December 18, 2009.*

## **PRIOR NOTICE OF MEETING:**

The Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners will next meet on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:00 pm in the Lecture Hall of the Augusta City Center. The Augusta City Center is located on Cony Street next to the historic Old Fort Western.

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**This newsletter is published by the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners. Opinions expressed in articles and editorials are not necessarily those of the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners.**

**Inclusion in this publication does not constitute endorsement.**

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