



Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club
Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia
Allentown Dog Training Club, Inc.
Anthracite Brittany Club
Back Mountain Kennel Club
Bald Eagle Kennel Club
Berks County Dog Training Club
Berks County Kennel Club
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Watchung
Borzoi Club of the Delaware Valley
Bucks County Kennel Club Inc.
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia Inc.
Bulldog Club Of Philadelphia
Butler Dog Training Association
Carlisle Dog Club
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Delaware Valley
Chambersburg Area Kennel Club
Colonial Rottweiler Club
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County
Delaware County Kennel Club Inc.
Delaware Valley Bullmastiff Club
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club
Delaware Valley Havanese Club
Delaware Valley Toy Dog Fanciers
Delaware Valley Yorkshire Terrier Club
Devon Dog Show Association
Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc.
Dog Training Club Of Chester County
Dog Training Club Of York
Erie Kennel Club
Great Dane Club Of Lehigh Valley LLC
Great Dane Club Of Pennsylvania Inc
Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Harrisburg Kennel Club
Hatboro Dog Club
Hilltown Dog Training Club
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.
Interstate Shetland Sheepdog Club
Irish Wolfhound Association Of Delaware Valley
Kan-Do K9 Sports Association
Keeshond Club of the Delaware Valley
Kennel Club Of Philadelphia
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.

Dogs are Barking About...

PA Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter #2

Spring 2017

Legislative Report on concerns with the 2017-2018 Session Proposals

HB1238 is NOT Just a Reorganization of Existing Cruelty Laws

A Bill that was fast-tracked through the PA House of Representatives is not what it claims to be. The statements to the media by its sponsors imply that it is only a restructuring of existing Cruelty Laws and some increase in the category of some of those offenses (i.e. from a summary offense to third degree misdemeanor). While those elements are in the House Bill 1238, there are also some troubling provisions in it that are not part of current PA Law. These include, but are not limited to:

- Tethering language that will affect hunt tests, field trials, lure coursing and other dog sports, as well as hunting itself. The PA Federation of Dog Clubs maintains its position that tethering is used humanely by a large number of PA Citizens today. The problems with tethering come from the conditions in which the dog is kept. The need for adequate cover from the elements, food, water and veterinary care are already addressed in the Commonwealth's Cruelty Laws. If the increased categorization and penalties included in the Bill are passed without the tethering language, we believe that will adequately address the problem.

- Immunity from civil suits for Humane Police Officers employed by humane societies and SPCAs. The officers are not employees of the Commonwealth nor any local municipalities. The immunity of state agencies does not apply to humane societies or SPCAs contracted to provide enforcement of cruelty laws. Such a blanket immunity deprives citizens of their rights to seek redress if their Constitutional Rights are violated.

- The increased penalties do cause us some concern as we have heard from more than a few members of our member organizations who have had unpleasant neighbors attempt to use cruelty complaints to settle disagreements. While often these complaints are dismissed after an investigation, the hassle and threat that individuals live under until they get their day in court can be life altering.

The PA Federation of Dog Clubs does not support HB 1238 as currently written. We would like to see hearings on the Bill in the Senate Agriculture Committee because they generally address changes to the Dog Law. Also, many of the provisions of this Bill will impact farmers and others in agriculture, and this committee is better suited to address those impacts. If the Bill stays in the Judiciary Committee, we would call for hearings there instead.

SB636: Removing Animals from Vehicles

A Bill that addresses the issue of removing animals from vehicles in extreme temperatures is moving through the PA Senate. This Bill responsibly limits the authority to police officers, humane officers, firemen and other first responders.

Lancaster Kennel Club
 Lebanon County Kennel Club
 Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club
 Lehigh Valley Kennel Club
 Lenape Golden Retriever Club
 Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers
 Lower Bucks Dog Training Club
 Mid Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club
 Middle Atlantic St. Bernard Club
 Montgomery County Kennel Club
 Mt Nittany Dog Training Club
 Nita-Nee Kennel Club
 Obedience Training Class Of Harrisburg
 Old York Road Dog Training Club
 Penn Ridge Kennel Club
 Penn Treaty Kennel Club
 Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club
 Philadelphia Dog Training Club
 Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley Inc.
 Quaker City Doberman Pinscher Club
 Saucon Valley Boxer Club
 Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club
 SE Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club
 Siberian Husky Club of the Delaware Valley
 Skycastle French Hounds
 South Hills Kennel Club
 Suburban Dog Training Club of Eastern Montgomery County
 Tri State Dog Obedience Club Inc. Waterland Retriever Club
 William Penn Poodle Club
 William Penn West Highland White Terrier Club
 Williamsport Dog Training Club
 York County Dog Training Club

We are concerned however that there is no protection for dog owners if the animal bites or harms the person removing the animal. Many dogs are very protective of their cars and will not understand if those breaking in are there to help them.

Another concern is protection of dog owners should the authority be misused. While we would all love to think that everyone exercising such authority is doing so with the best intentions to help the animals, we have seen cases where similar authority was misused (i.e. the Willard dog seizure case).

We would like to see the following amendments to SB636:

(2) A person who witnesses an act under paragraph (1) may contact a police officer, a volunteer or professional fireman, humane officer, security guard or other first responder, who may take any *reasonable and necessary* action to safeguard the dog or cat, including, but not limited to, breaking into the motor vehicle to remove the dog or cat from the unattended motor vehicle after a reasonable effort to search for the owner or operator of the unattended motor vehicle.

(3) A police officer, a volunteer or professional fireman, humane officer, security guard or other first responder, and the department or agency employing the officer, is not liable for any damage to property resulting from *reasonable and necessary* actions taken under this section.

(4) A person whose dog or cat is removed from an unattended vehicle under this section shall not be liable for any injury to property or persons during the period that the dog or cat is under possession or control of another.

SR35: Creating an "Animal Abuse Prevention Task Force"

Some radical animal rights groups, including the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) are pushing this idea because Pennsylvania “gets bad grades for its Cruelty Laws.” The problem is, those same groups are the ones handing out the bad grades. This is probably because the Legislature has not passed a lot of their radical agenda.

This task force proposal and list of Task Force members, including HSUS, comes directly from Governor Wolf. HSUS is the most vociferous animal rights lobbying organization in the United States and is not a true animal welfare organization. They are very active in Pennsylvania, and as such, should not be included on a proposed task force whose main purpose is to change our animal abuse laws and regulations. While the makeup of this proposed task force as outlined in Senate Resolution 35 appears to be balanced, it is not. We are very concerned that by cherry picking representatives of the stakeholders, it will not represent the wide range of backgrounds and viewpoints stated in the resolution. Rather, it will be strongly biased towards the views of the radical animal rights groups pushing for its creation. The required membership is not representative - it excludes farmers, hunters, sportsmen, small breeders, the public and others who may be stakeholders impacted by any recommendations by the Task Force.

The PA Federation of Dog Clubs feels the legislative process has been working well in the Commonwealth and commends the Legislature on their thoughtful work on most of the proposals put forth in recent years. The changes to the Dog Law and their corresponding kennel regulations have done a lot to clean up the substandard kennels that embarrassed many of us in PA. There are changes pending in the current session that will stiffen the penalties for specific acts of cruelty and we support many of those. It seems to us the deliberative process is working as designed.

Again, the PFDC does not see the need for a task force to address the Commonwealth's Cruelty Laws, but we would be willing to be represented on such a task force if the Legislature ultimately decides to create it. We represent dozens of canine organizations across the Commonwealth including all-breed kennel clubs, individual breed specialty clubs, dog training clubs, rescues and others. The citizens of PA who make up these organizations devote much of their free time to raising, training and loving man's best

friend, and are some of the most knowledgeable people to be found on their issues.

- **HB 493** (Schlossberg) – This proposal seeks to designate the "shelter pet" as the official pet of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This may remove the Great Dane as the official dog. **We oppose.**

- **SB 54** (Greenleaf) – It makes various changes to the Puppy Lemon Law, such as requiring that the releasing agency shall provide a new owner of a dog with a health record for the dog at the time of adoption, extends the timeframe that a hereditary or congenital condition must be certified by a veterinarian from within 30 days to 90 days of the purchase, among other things. The bill also provided that a dog shall not be unfit for purchase because of a health problem, which, in addition to a health certificate or guarantee of good health required under the law, is separately disclosed by the seller in writing at the time of sale. Such disclosure shall be signed by both the seller and the purchaser at the time of the sale and shall be documented in the health certificate or guarantee of good health. **We support.**

- **SB 248** (Leach) – It prohibits exhibitors from employing or using any exotic animal or exotic wildlife in an animal act, ride, performance, or exhibition as part of a traveling show or exhibition if, during the 15-day period preceding the employment or use, the animal was living or traveling in a mobile housing facility. **We oppose.**

- **HB 13** - Representative Bizzaro has reintroduced Libre's Law. It still includes the tethering language to which we objected and some problematic definitions that could treat accidents as torture. **We oppose and will work to inform Legislators of our specific issues with the Bill.**

- **SB 298** – Senator Richard Alloway II has introduced SB 298 which he says is his version of Libre's Law. We do not know yet how similar it is to HB13, **but it should be watched nonetheless.**

- **HB 853** (Grenier) – Increases fines for a summary offense cruelty charge from \$50 to \$250. **We support.**

- **HB 854** – Representative Grenier introduced this Bill to increase qualifications for individuals appointed as Humane Police Officers. **We support and encourage all member organizations to support.**

- **SB 480** (Dinniman) – It makes it a first degree misdemeanor if a person harms or kills an animal owned by an individual who has a protection from abuse order against the offender. The bill provided that any individual convicted of this crime shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$15,000 and/or imprisonment for up to two years. **We support.**

- **SB 469** (Blake) – It provides for a tax credit for the cost of adopting a dog or cat from a qualifying pound, shelter, society, or association for the prevention of cruelty to animals, etc. The amount of the tax credit would be \$300 per tax year. **We do not support.**

Interstate Transfer of Animals Between Shelters

A bill to stop the importing of unvetted puppies from out of state and unrecorded transfer of puppies for "adoption" (read "sale") between some so-called humane and rescue organizations in Pennsylvania is still desperately needed. Any knowledge of such organizations doing this should be immediately reported to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement as a matter of public safety. These "shelters" apply for 501(c)3 status as non-profits. They are, in effect, functioning for profit as "puppy mills." Doing nothing about this directly related disgraceful problem that certainly should affect the public's perception of their honest functions and practices unfortunately casts Humane PA's and the Federated Humane Societies of PA's motives in promoting any legislation in a very self-serving light, in our way of thinking, as they avoid monitoring or policing these rogue rescues. We recommend that you be very careful about supporting their legislative agendas. The issue about dogs and cats coming through any rescues unvetted and undocumented should not be "a thorny one" for any intelligent person, regardless of his or her affiliation, as it causes exposure of the general public's pets and people to disease from other areas, and purchase of heartbreakingly unhealthy animals as pets. And healthy animals in such shelters are obviously put at risk as well. The current lemon law can only help after the fact. The Federated Humane Societies of PA should be very strong voices to help correct this problem. It should be a much needed amendment to the PA dog laws. We of the PFDC have been trying to get these loopholes stopped for some time. Please notify USDA/APHIS at ace@aphis.usda.gov or phone 301-851-3751 to complain about the transfer of dogs among shelters, especially without adequate health checks.

In addition to vetting the rescue organization or shelter, state officials recommend these tips for people looking to adopt: **1. Find out what state and county the animal came from, 2. Ask for the pet's CVI,**

3. **Ask what kind of treatments the pet received after coming to the rescue facility.** Do your research before adoptions, especially because most organizations will make you sign a contract releasing them of any financial responsibility. Any reputable organization will have treated the animal for at least two weeks before putting it up for adoption.

Upcoming Member Events

- **Berks County Kennel Club All About Dogs Day.** Each year the BCKC holds our All About Dogs Day on the 3rd Saturday in June, this year it will be on June 24, 2017. The event is held at the Sinking Spring Fire Company, Ruth St., Sinking Spring, PA This event is Free to the Public and gives local dog lovers the opportunity to come out and meet local breeders, try their hand at fun doggie events and games with their own dogs, and shopping with our vendors. It is from 10:00 to 3:00 and a great family event. PASART and the PFDC will have displays at this event.

Our NOC Journey—by Chris Allen

For those who don't follow Obedience that closely, The AKC National Obedience Championship or NOC (formerly called the National Obedience Invitational) is usually held around March and rotates across different locations in the East, Midwest, and West. This year it was held in Perry GA March 25-26. An invitation to the NOC is comparable to getting selected for the Olympics. Dogs qualify in 3 ways, all based on # of OTCh points accrued during the 12-month period Dec. 1 – Nov. 31:



1. Top 3 or top 10% of those earning OTCh points, whichever is greater, within their breed.

2. Top 25 all-breed (as a practical matter I think this is a subset of #1).

3. Regional qualifier: in each of the 11 AKC regions, a 3-day cluster is defined as the Regional Qualifier. Based on cumulative score over the 3 days, the top 4 dogs, who do not qualify via breed standings or via a Regional held earlier in the year, will qualify for the NOC. In other words, if the top 4 cumulative scores were earned by teams that are well within the top 10% of their breeds, then dogs 5, 6, and 7 will qualify.

4. In some cases, the AKC issues second-round invitations. I'm not sure how this works, but they didn't seem to do it this year.

Since its inception, the tournament structure has been tweaked a few times in an ongoing effort to make it as equitable as possible while showcasing the broad range of breeds that participate and excel in Obedience. The structure of this year's tournament was:

1. On Saturday, there were 8 rings, each with a combination of Open and Utility individual exercises (usually 3 per ring). Throughout the day, each dog rotates among all 8 rings. All dogs perform the group exercises just before the lunch break. As soon as the team leaves the ring at the end of an individual run, the table steward holds up a paddle showing number of points lost in that ring. Once competition is over, the results are tallied, the group placements are awarded, and the top 50 teams are announced. Depending on the group, it's possible for a dog to earn a group placement without advancing to Sunday.

2. The top 50 teams, based on cumulative score, advance to Sunday, where they do some combination of exercises in each of the 8 rings. There are not quite as many exercises, so with fewer dogs competing this round moves quickly. The top 20 finishers in this round are announced before the lunch break.

3. The top 20 advance to the finals where they perform some combination of exercises in 4 different rings, with two judges per ring. This round determines the final rankings including Top 10 placements.

Like the Oscars, it truly is an honor just to be invited. Since my bucket list item was earning the invitation, any accomplishment at the tournament itself would be a bonus. My goal was to soak up the experience, have a good time working together as a team with Frankie, and finish in the top 2/3. My stretch goal was to run clean on Saturday. My plan for Sunday was to attend as a spectator. 140 teams were

entered, and 122 actually showed. Saturday competition began at 8:00; we were as prepared as we could be, and were the first team up in Ring 6 – Broad Jump followed by Scent Discrimination. Good for us – Frankie rarely NQ's those exercises, so I hoped they'd help him settle into work mode. Here goes – we were running with the big dogs. At the end of our run, we'd only lost 2 points – game on! I could tell Frankie felt the pressure, but despite a few oops along the way, he held it together. When we finished the final exercise, I was absolutely thrilled – we had run clean. Good boy, Frankie!

Since we had started first in the morning, we were one of the first teams to finish. Throughout the day, each team's cumulative scores were being posted on a computer screen – based on armband number, not standing. With so many teams on the board, there was no way to know what the final standings would be. Following a run-off in the Sporting group, group placements were awarded. Then, the top 50 were announced by AKC Director of Obedience, Rally, and Tracking, Pam Manaton, starting at the top with #1. Each person was called into the ring to be congratulated by Pam and the receiving line of judges. Finally, Pam called #50 – Australian Shepherd Frankie and Chris Allen! I was overjoyed. As a matter of fact, all 3 Aussies advanced to Sunday.

Sunday was tough. You could feel the pressure in the room. We were exhausted. Still, Frankie did well enough to improve our standing. We finished 45th and top Aussie! Then we got to relax and watch the final top 20 round and cheer for the top 10 teams. It was our first rodeo and we sure had a great ride! We had an amazing year. We each got better and we improved our teamwork. And I always get to go home with the best dog. Thank you, Frankie. He is one awesome Aussie. What's next? Well, we need 36 points to finish out OTCh, Porter needs to get his TD, and I just got a new puppy, Bingo.....

Finally, I can't say enough about the community of Obedience folk and the caliber of the judges, volunteers, and the AKC staff at the event. There was a truly warm atmosphere, with exhibitors genuinely supportive of each other. All the workers did an outstanding job, and were so supportive of the exhibitors. The adage "it takes a village" definitely applies to Obedience. I'm so glad I get to live in this village!

PFDC Annual Dinner Meeting September 6th–SAVE THE DATE!

The annual dinner meeting will be at Caitlyn & Cody's Diner, 1907 John Fries Highway, Quakertown, PA 18951, on Wednesday, September 6 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Nominations for *OutstandingClubs@pafederationofdogclubs.org* and *OutstandingIndividual@pafederationofdogclubs.org* are now being taken.

The PA State Animal Rescue Team–A Critical Update

The proposed agreement for the Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area to take over PASART and run it as a wholly-owned subsidiary was withdrawn by the Board of HSHA after the Board of PA State Animal Rescue Team (PASART) voted to explore another offer.

The other offer is a joint venture by the PA Veterinary Medical Association and PennAg that will provide PASART with management services. This agreement would kick-in after the retirement of current Executive Director Joel Hersh and last for up to a year. In that time the PASART Board will be under the gun to find funding to hire a new Executive Director and manage the program until that person can be seated and trained.

Over the last decade, many of the tasks that should have been performed by the Board and its officers, were instead left to Joel Hersh. The Board has a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. It should also have had a Vice-Chair but that position has been left vacant for years. Now, with the new agreement with PVMA and PennAg, there are tasks these management service providers cannot and should not do. These tasks should be done by these officers and the Board at large. Some of these include reporting back to PEMA and other granters on the uses of the grant money, calling Board meetings, scheduling Board elections of officers, recruiting and vetting new Board members and staffing the PEMA emergency operations center during disasters.

PFDC President Darin Cox pointed out to the others on the PASART Board that PFDC member organizations have been actively soliciting donations and providing them to PASART. So far in 2017, our member organizations have already donated \$1500. This is obviously well short of the \$200,000 minimum needed by PASART annually to hire an Executive Director and keep the program running efficiently. However, if every member of the PASART Board sought similar funding from the constituents, we could cover that minimum.

Darin also pointed out, and Joel Hersh confirmed, that he was the only Board member to travel with Mr. Hersh to presentation on the PASART program. He is also one of the only Board members to independently schedule and present the PASART program across the Commonwealth. Darin challenged the other Board members to step up and do likewise. PASART's need for new volunteers closely matches it's need for new funding. PFDC will be doing presentations of PASART equipment, meeting with legislative aides and the public during the Memorial Weekend cluster in New Castle. Also during the All About Dogs Day with the Berks County Kennel Club and Berks County Dog Training Club in Sinking Springs (near Reading) on June 24. Members of PFDC member clubs can support these displays by coming out to stand with us for an hour or two.

PFDC has also been in the lead on lobbying efforts in the PA Legislature to secure state funding for PASART. House Emergency Preparedness and Veterans Affairs Chairman, Representative Stephen Barrar, wrote a strong letter of support to the House Appropriations Chairman, Representative Stan Saylor, for a line-item in the state budget for PASART. It is very important that members of member organizations in Representative Saylor's District in York County contact him and express support for the PASART program.

This is a tough budget year but this is a pivotal point for PASART.

If we fail to obtain funding to recruit and hire a new Executive Director in the next year, the program may be dissolved. It would then be up to each County to operate emergency animal rescue and sheltering on their own. Some will rise to the challenge and others will ignore it until a disaster occurs. Then the citizens of those counties may be at the mercy of those that did prepare. **Help keep PASART strong by making a donation today.**

The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Requires that Everyone has CURRENT DOG LICENSES for their Pets

All dogs three months or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs. The cost of a dog license is cheaper than the fine for not having one. An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities. Dog licenses can be purchased from your county treasurer or issuing agent. Please visit **www.licenseyourdogPA.com** for a listing of all treasurers.

License fees help millions of dogs in the state by funding the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement which is charged with ensuring the welfare of breeding dogs and puppies in commercial breeding kennels. The Bureau also regulates activities pertaining to dogs that are classified as dangerous, and oversees annual licensure and rabies vaccinations for dogs.

If your dog gets lost, a current license is the fastest way to get him/her back.

<http://PAFederationOfDogClubs.org> President@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org 717-877-4336

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