



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 Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club
Delaware Valley Toy Dog Fanciers Assn.
Delaware Valley Yorkshire Terrier Club
Devon Dog Show Association
Doberman Pinscher Rescue of PA, Inc.
Dog Training Club Of Chester County PA, Inc.
Dog Training Club Of York
Erie Kennel Club
Great Dane Club Of Lehigh Valley LLC
Great Dane Club Of Pennsylvania Inc
Greater Pittsburg Golden Retriever Club
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

Dogs are Barking About...

PA Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter #1

Spring-Summer 2018

Legislative Report Federal Farm Bill

The National Animal Interest Alliance has developed a proposed amendment, supported by the AKC, to the 2018 Farm Bill to improve health standards and screening for dogs imported into the Continental United States and Hawaii. The bill would require that dogs be subject to the same types of screening to protect the health of animals in the U.S. as is currently mandated to protect livestock.

Livestock are currently screened for communicable diseases and vectors upon import to control threats to the health of our animals. The only current legal requirement for any dog imported is that it have a valid rabies certificate or be imported from a country we consider rabies free. Additionally, dogs for resale (including dogs imported by retail rescue groups, require certain minimum vaccinations. They are supposed to be inspected at the port of entry, but this is not currently a high priority, especially since no additional funds were provided to perform the inspections — there are fees associated with the import of livestock.

While the 2008 Farm Bill implemented some control over the commercial importation of dogs, the issuance of the final regulations in 2014, after a delay of 6 years, did not adequately address health importation issues for pets, agricultural animals and people resulting from inadequate health screening of imported dogs. Dogs exported from the U.S. must meet rigorous health vaccination and testing standards to be admitted to foreign countries. These include health certificates signed by a USDA accredited veterinarian and endorsed by USDA and rabies vaccinations and may add rabies titers and microchips to the requirements. Dogs without the required health certificates and vaccinations are returned to the country of export. The same standards should be applied to all dogs imported into the United States. Unfortunately, current law permits dogs imported in violation of the law to be adopted out, despite there being no quarantine facilities in most places.

The United States and Canada have experienced outbreaks of contagious infectious (e.g., rabies, tuberculosis and brucellosis) and vector-borne (e.g., ehrlichiosis, babesiosis, screwworm and leishmaniasis) diseases carried by imported dogs. In one case documented by the CDC, a strain of rabies not seen in the country for decades was brought in by an inadequately protected and poorly screened imported dog from Egypt.

Ten years after the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, the requirements for health screening, permitting and inspections are still not implemented fully for that part of the import stream – dogs imported for resale - covered by the statute. The regulatory model that applies to farm animal health works well and tailors import requirements to the risk of disease import from each country or region. The same model should be applied for the importation of all pets. It is crucial that the 2018 Farm Bill include such requirements to protect the health of pets, farm animal and people.

Senator Casey is a member of the Agriculture Committee. Please have

Kennel Club Of Philadelphia
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc.
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
Mifflin County Dog Training Club
Montgomery County Kennel Club
Mt Nittany Dog Training Club
Nita-Nee Kennel Club
Old York Road Dog Training Club
Penn Ridge Kennel Club
Penn Treaty Kennel Club
Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club
Philadelphia Dog Training Club
Pocono Mountain Kennel 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.
William Penn Poodle Club
William Penn West Highland White Terrier Club
Williamsport Dog Training Club
York County Dog Training Club

your members contact his staff at adam_tarr@casey.senate.gov and ask to include this language in the Senate Bill. Ask them to reach out to our other Senator to support this amendment when it comes up for a vote in the Senate. The House Bill does not include this language, so please have them reach out to their representatives to ask them to support adding this to the bill when the House and Senate Conference committees meet. This is an election year and may be our best opportunity to take control of this issue.

2018-2019 State Session Proposals

Senate Bill 1154. A bill recently introduced in the Pennsylvania State Senate is designed to restrict breeders and limit pet choice and access to purpose-bred pets. Senate Bill 1154 requires retail pet stores to sell only random-source dogs obtained from shelters and rescues. Even if you currently work only with dogs from non-professional/hobby breeders, this bill could have significant implications for your future ability to obtain a healthy, purpose-bred dog of your choice.

Facts about the sources of U.S. pets and pet choice:

- Fewer than 4 percent of pets in the US are obtained from pet shops. By contrast more than 40% are obtained from shelters or rescue operations. (American Pet Product Manufacturers Survey, 2017). This bill will do little to address any issues associated with substandard breeders.

- This bill bans the sale of pets from known, regulated and inspected sources and compel petshops to only sell pets from random, unregulated sources (i.e., shelters, rescues, and other similar organizations not subject to breeder laws).

- This bill will dramatically reduce the average person's opportunity to choose a dog with the predictable type, legally-mandated care & oversight, and substantiated health background that come with purebred pets from regulated sources. Individuals who lack access to accurate information about pet sources or access to private hobby breeders will be the most impacted.

- This bill will harm responsible pet breeders and retailers who are regulated under federal and/or state laws, while encouraging the retail sale of pets from unlicensed and unregulated sources that are not subject to federal animal welfare or Pennsylvania's consumer protection laws.

- This bill does not require shelters or rescues to supply pet shops with dogs to sell. A lack of supply will prove economically disastrous for these businesses, the people who are employed by them and the consumers who rely on them.

Contact your State Senator TODAY and ask him to not support any pet sales bans. Visit the AKC Legislative Action Center (www.akcgr.org) and type your address in the "Find Your Elected Officials" box or visit www.legis.state.pa.us and use the "Find My Legislator" tool to get the name and contact information for your State Senator. For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs at President@PAFederationofDogClubs.org or AKC Government Relations at doglaw@akc.org.

Banning pet stores from selling any animal except those from "Rescues" or "Shelters" is a bad idea. When is enough, enough? When it comes to the radical agenda of some animal groups, the answer is never. In 2009 the PFDC helped pass significant reforms to PA Kennel Laws and Regulations. As a result, the Commonwealth saw a significant reduction in the number of commercial kennels from over 1500 in 2008 to less than 1000 today based on Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement reports. Those that remain are highly regulated and inspected. Any substandard commercial kennels still in operation are unlicensed and illegal. Since pets stores are also licensed in the Commonwealth, an operator of a pet store would be putting their license in jeopardy if they obtained animals from an unlicensed kennel.

Supporters of SB1154 will argue that it does not affect hobby breeders so we should not care. While we would love to see all pure-bred dogs coming from hobby breeders who invest hundreds of hours and thousand of dollars annually in their dogs, we recognized that we cannot keep up with the turn-over in the pet population ourselves. Well regulated and inspected commercial kennels should not be driven out of business. Doing so would greatly impact the ability of consumers to obtain the pet of their choice for their families. Also, given the facts above about the success of the 2009 kennel reforms and the fact that this Bill is still being pushed by animal radicals shows us that they will never be satisfied. After they have succeeded in driving all commercial kennels from the Commonwealth, we expect hobby breeders would be next in the cross hairs.

Another concern for us is the level of fraud among "rescues", especially in the northeastern US. The anecdotal evidence is overwhelming that there are dozens if not hundreds of "puppy mills" now passing themselves off as "rescues" and raking in huge amounts of "adoption fees" instead of sales receipts. We would not be the least bit surprised if should SB1154 pass into Law, the number of such "rescues" will explode. Without significant reforms to rescue and shelter regulations, SB1154 would make conditions worse for animals we believe.

House Bill 1463 aims to restore the Dog Law Restricted Account to sound financial health by increasing individual dog license fees. The money in the account comes from licensing fees and penalties for violations of the Dog Law. No funds from the state's budget are spent on Dog Law enforcement. A number of years ago, \$4 million was removed from the account to help balance the budget. PFDC challenged this along with other groups, but we lost the court battle. Ever since, the amount available to support the Dog Law functions has diminished.

The PFDC supports the goals of HB 1463 to ensure that the Dog Law functions are adequately funded and protected from encroachment. However, we believe that some changes would make the bill even more equitable and remove current distinctions that have no enforcement impact.

PFDC believes that to be equitable, both individual dog licenses and kennel licenses should be increased - a position we have held since 2008. We want Dog Law to be a self-supporting program and are concerned that income from kennel licenses may not cover all the costs of kennel inspections. This reduces the amount of money available for other Dog Law activities, like providing funds for shelters that house stray dogs for the state, increasing staff to more appropriate past levels, prosecuting vicious dog cases, and increasing the percentage of dogs licensed.

The Bill permits the Department to set license fees through regulation, rather than rely on changes to the statutes. Political considerations make getting any change to license fees through the legislature very difficult. Our current fees are outdated and among the lowest in the country.

We continue to oppose the differentiation in license fees between neutered or spayed and intact dogs. There is no difference in the enforcement burden related to whether a dog is capable of breeding and believe that the policy origin for the distinction is no longer valid. This is implicitly recognized in the Dog Law by requiring licensing of rescue groups that import animals into the Commonwealth. Each puppy born should be licensed at the required age. Failure to register is an enforcement issue, the breeding of dogs is not and should not be penalized by increased fees through state regulation. Furthermore, there is growing evidence that dogs with intact reproductive systems live longer than those that have them removed and that the health benefits from having a dog intact outweigh those associated with neutering and spaying dogs.

The proposed law eliminates an outdated fee provided to the judicial system associated with prosecuting Dog Law offenses. We support this. However, given the history of raiding the account that is not funded from the tax base, we urge the legislature to expand the protection of this fund so that money taken from license fees and penalties will only be used to fund Dog Law activities. If the legislature does not provide that protection, we risk another raid on the resources we pay for that are supposed to be dedicated to enforcement of the Dog Law and ensuring the proper care of dogs in the Commonwealth. The legislature needs to step up and take responsibility for fiscal soundness.

With the advances in computers, selling licenses online is more cost effective, more efficient, and makes the process easier, encouraging people to comply with the law. The proposal will look into developing a unified, statewide online licensing system. This should reduce the burden on County Treasurers, make information sharing easier, and provide better data for policy analysis. This will aid Department staff in

retrieving dog license information to enforce the Dog Law expeditiously and fairly and to fund improvements in its operations by increasing the percentage of dogs licensed in the Commonwealth.

We urge you to contact your legislator to express your support of the fee increases, but to also request the amendments discussed above.

HB1238 has passed as Libre's Law, and 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. 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 or 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 did not support HB 1238 as written and passed into law. Many of the provisions of this law will impact farmers and others in agriculture, and we will watch carefully to see how it is applied. We will seek corrective amendments made to either clarify its application or modify the law. Please report any problems with this new law to us so that we can try to help you.

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.

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:

(1) A person who witnesses an act under paragraph 1 of the Bill 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

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) – The PA Federation of Dog Clubs does not support Senate Bill 248 largely due to its premises lacking scientific basis. It has been asserted in the memo for this Bill that "The circumstances of travel and performance make it impossible for the animals to be given the environment and facilities they require to maintain a healthy life. Mobile housing units are often cramped even to the point of being unhealthy. Animals are also denied social interactions, sufficient exercise, and proper nutrition."

Most of these assertions have been shown to be false during the trial of the lawsuit brought by the owners of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus versus PETA. The Scientific Data Act was passed by the Legislature in 2012 and requires new regulations to be scientifically based. It would be helpful in our view if legislation was too. **We oppose.**

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.**

HB 1917– The PA Federation of Dog Clubs supports the strengthening of training requirements for Humane Society Officers as proposed in House Bill 1917. Given that these officers have the power to seize property and curtail the freedom by arrest of those accused, we believe it is entirely prudent to raise the standards of their education.

The memo for the bill lays out reasonable goals:

Increasing initial and annual training hours. Look up training hours for regular police.

Training proper procedure for citations and warrants. It is pointless to waste everyone's time and endanger the health and safety of animals when a case is thrown out in court due to technical errors.

Mandate officers receive education on basic animal husbandry practices of modern farms, including biosecurity. Terrorists can use our food supply chain as a weapon against us, so this requirement seems minimal to us.

Requiring officers to be residents of the Commonwealth would discourage radical national organizations from influencing this program.

Requiring revocation of an appointment by a County to be recognized statewide would protect other counties from inheriting bad apples.

Encouraging transparency by subjecting employing associations to our Right-to-Know Law is quite reasonable given the power invested in these officers. **We support with amendments.** The bill originally required increasing training from 44 hours to 120 hours for HSPOs. It now reduces the increase to only 80 hours. Eighty hours is not enough training in areas covering cruelty laws, criminal procedure law, filing citations, execution of search warrants and search and seizure practices, normal animal husbandry practices, proper care and treatment of agricultural and other animals, agricultural biosecurity, general farm safety and security practices, including a farm visit. In addition, there are no representatives of the many public groups subject to the cruelty law, including hunters, breeders, dog owners, exhibitors, etc. Since this group recommends required training, this is a significant omission.

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.*

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. Also, send a detailed report to APHIS, Animal Care (which has jurisdiction over interstate shipment of animal in commerce) also. 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 an All About Dogs Day on the third Saturday in June. Our All About Dogs Day will be on Saturday, June 23, 10 am to 3 pm. Free admission/free parking; over 25 breed and vendor booths; music all day; good food and Mr. Softee ice cream truck. Contact Nancy Reiter, karefreedals@yahoo.com.

- **Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley** is running an Eye and Health Clinic on Sunday, June 24th at Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA. To register, please contact Dorothy Schneck at 570-629-4064, pawstlrn@ptd.net. Don't delay - call right away! Forms may also be downloaded from our website, poodleclubofthevalley.com.

- **Hilltown Dog Training Club** has Obedience Show & Goes every other month in conjunction with the K9Jym. Here are the dates: **June 17th, August 26th, October 21st, December 16th.** Anyone can enter by going to Dogmatchshows.com.

- **Suburban Dog Training, Wyndmoor, PA,** will be having an indoor Show-N-Go on Saturday, June 23rd. Information at SuburbanDogTraining.com.

- **The PFDC Annual Meeting** date will be September 12, 2018. Location and speakers to be determined. We will again be conducting our Outstanding Club and Outstanding Individual (person or canine) awards, so start putting together your submissions now. Send them to OutstandingClub@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org or OutstandingIndividual@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org

- **The Valley Forge Kennel Club** will be having four rally trials (two each day) on September 29 and 30, 2018, at the Dog Training Center of Chester County. The premium list will be on the Rau Dog Show web site.

- **KanDo K9 Sports** will have a World Cynosport Rally Trial On July 22, 2018 and our UKC Rally and Obedience trials, Oct 6 & 7, 2018. Contact Liz Long, liz long k9langtal7@yahoo.com.

The PA State Animal Response Team – An Update

The grant that PASART was seeking from the public service foundation has not materialized, so the program is in deep trouble. Related County Animal Response Teams are still responding to calls for assistance in some counties, but the number of volunteers has dropped to a critical level. Readiness is suffering without a full-time Executive Director and active Board. The attached letter from the Chairman of the PA House Emergency Preparedness and Veterans Affairs Committee, Representative Stephen Barrar, shows his continued strong support for the program. We are deeply grateful to the Chairman for his letter urging a line-item in the budget to keep the PASART program going strong.

STEPHEN E. BARRAR, MEMBER
160TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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May 22, 2018
Rep. Stan Saylor, Majority Chairman
Appropriations Committee
245 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Saylor:

In my capacity as Majority Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee, and as a strong supporter of proactive emergency planning and response measures, I write to you for the purpose of requesting a \$200,000 PEMA budget line item for our PA State Animal Response Team (PSART) Program.

This program was developed for the purpose of assisting communities and residents with the evacuation and sheltering of pets and livestock during disaster emergencies. Currently, this program receives miniscule and non-dedicated federal and state funds from PEMA, when possible. With this funding never being solidified year to year, it is very hard for program officials to plan and make necessary purchases, logistical agreements.....etc.

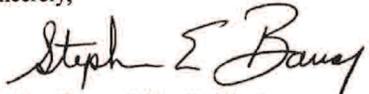
Furthermore, federal law requires states to plan and execute a program for animal evacuations, as a condition for receiving federal disaster aid and assistance funds from FEMA. This requirement was put in place after Hurricane Katrina in 2006, where a very large population of residents did not evacuate because they did not want to abandon their pets or livestock.

I personally have interacted with PSART and various animal and kennel association members that partner with this program, a program which is very important to our farming community and those citizens who house and cherish their pets. I believe that a \$200,000 budget line item, dedicated specifically to PSART as a separate line item under PEMA's budget, is a very small price to pay for ensuring that necessary evacuations take place, and further insures that our Commonwealth is compliant with federal law, thereby not jeopardizing needed disaster aid and assistance funds.

Should you wish to meet with me and PSART Program officials to discuss this request, please do not hesitate to contact my office. You will be happy to know that this program has a very large footprint in York County and southeast Pennsylvania. I had the pleasure of attending an event they sponsored last year in York, PA. Their professionalism and dedication to our citizenry and our pet and livestock population is indeed very impressive. Proactive emergency planning and response programs such as PSART, are indeed sound policy initiatives that the General Assembly must support. Therefore, I respectfully submit this request for state funding in this year's budget to support this vital program.

Thank you for your time, efforts and considerations on this important request.

Sincerely,



Stephen Barrar, Majority Chairman
House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness Committee

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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