



The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs held their annual meeting on September 10th, 2022, at a host farm in Lancaster County.

This year, we chose to do something a little different from past years. We included a kennel tour as our opening to the meeting!

We visited several kennels in Lancaster County and we have to say - they were very impressive. We also learned more about the strict USDA regulations that these kennels must abide by. We had an opportunity to speak to the Kennel owners regarding various issues, including the construction of their kennels. It was a very informative and delightful tour and we are greatly appreciative that they were willing to share their time and knowledge with us.

When we returned to the farm, our hosts provided a delicious home cooked meal, served cafeteria style! The food was excellent and enjoyed by all!

There was some technical difficulty in the online presentation that was planned and unfortunately, we were not able to show the presentation and trailers for the soon to be released Punk Rock Media Documentary regarding dog breeders and puppy mills. We hope to get that working soon.

Those individuals that signed in for the day were as follows:

Darin Cox, Linda Witouski, Jonathan Stanley, Judy Swanson, Lorraine Simmons, Charley Hall, Eddie Rysdyk, Paul Lapinski, David Zimmerman, Matt Osenbach, Elmer Zook, Ron Kreider, Ken Eberly, Sam Zook, Linford Reiff, Daniel & Verna Esh, Ray & Linda Martin.

The following annual awards were given:

VIP of the Year – Ray Martin

Outstanding Club of the Year brought forth a tie !

Those clubs awarded were:

Western Pennsylvania Dachshund Club...and the Obedience Training Club of Harrisburg.

The PFDC extends hearty congratulations to all those awarded!! Well done!!

We had several speakers present.

1) PA State Representative David Zimmerman who discussed the processes required for bill passage and some of the reasons for delays in those processes. He also provided Legislative updates and the importance of breeders, clubs, and club members needing to work together. Animal rights activists never sleep. Its important for Animal Welfare advocates voices to be heard - together.

2) Matt Osenbach, PA State Senator Gene Yaws Legislative Director, who spoke about SB907 - to create an Animal Welfare Board in the Commonwealth that would include a variety of organizations that have animal welfare interests. Matt also discussed the failed attempt by Animal Rights organizations to amend SB907 to include their representation on the Advisory Board. As stated, "The intent of this Board is Animal Welfare and not Animal Rights".

3) Charley Hall, AKC Mid-Atlantic Analyst/Community Outreach Coordinator, spoke about the ongoing legislative efforts of the AKC and the great importance of the "boots on the ground" Federations. "AKC can't do it alone - some of our greatest assets are the AKC state federations." He spoke of the challenges that dog breeders face with the constant introduction of legislation by Animal Rights groups that would affect all breeders in detrimental ways. Working together, breeders and dog owners can be assured their voices and rights are heard at the local, state and Federal levels.

4) Ken Eberley spoke for the PPDBA (Pennsylvania Professional Dog Breeders Association) to explain their organization goals. They were appreciative of the invite and opportunity to work together.

5) PAWS (Pennsylvania Animal Welfare and Safety) was represented by Sam Zook, who also spoke about their organization and also appreciated the opportunity to meet and work together.

6) The BLC (Breeder Leaders Council) was represented by Janet Donnelly, immediate past president of the Breeders Leadership Council who spoke via phone participation on the importance of all dog groups working together to strengthen the community and educate everyone about the importance of animal welfare and their differences. Janet invited everyone interested to explore the Canine Care Certified Program administered by Purdue University, which you can view here...Canine Care Certified -

<https://vet.purdue.edu/cc/>

7) We also heard from Ray Martin and Daniel Esh, who shared with us their experiences with the PA BDLE and the PSPCA.

All said and done, it was an enjoyable and informative gathering and we look forward to future plans, working together, advocating for all, our rights as breeders and dog owners.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Witouski, PFDC Legislation Chair