



Dogs are Barking About...

Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Volume II, 2024

Legislative Report November 2024

Admiral Perry Obedience Training Club
Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia
Allentown Dog Training Club
Anthracite Brittany club
Bald Eagle Kennel Club
Berks County Kennel Club
Bernese Mt Dog Club of Watchung
Bucks County Kennel Club
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia
Bulldog Club of Philadelphia
Butler County Kennel Club
Butler Dog Training Association
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of DE Valley
Central PA K9 Performance Club
Chambersburg Area Kennel Club
Colonial Rottweiler Club
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County
Dauphin Dog Training Club
Delaware County Kennel Club
DV Bullmastiff Club
DV Dalmatian Club
DV German Shepherd Dog Club
DV Havanese Club
DV Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club
Devon Dog Show Association
Erie Kennel Club
Greater Pittsburgh Golden Retriever Club
Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Harrisburg Kennel Club
Hatboro Dog Club
Hilltown Dog Training Club
Huntington Valley Kennel Club
Inter-State Shetland Sheepdog Club of PA
Kan-Do K9 Sports Association
Kennel Club of Philadelphia
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh
Keystone English Springer Spaniel Club
Lackawana Kennel Club
Lancaster Kennel Club
Lebanon County Kennel Club
Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club
Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers
Lower Bucks Dog Training Club
Middle Atlantic St Bernard Club
Montgomery County Kennel Club
Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg
PA Animal Wellness and Safety Assoc.
PA Sled Dog Club
Penn Ridge Kennel Club
Penn Treaty Kennel Club
Pocono Mountain Kennel Club
Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley
Saucon Valley Boxer Club
Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club
Siberian Husky Club of DV
South Eastern Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club
Suburban Dog Training Club
Tioga County Kennel Club
Tri State Dog Obedience Club
Waterland Retriever Club
Western PA Dachshund Club
William Penn Poodle Club
Williamsport Dog Training Club

State Legislative Proposals

PA HB 1210 - Data on domestic violence and child abuse cases reveal that a staggering number of animals are targeted by those who abuse their children or spouses. In one survey, 71 percent of domestic violence victims reported that their abuser also targeted pets.” Researchers have found links between coercive control and the abuse of pets, with abusers often using family pets as leverage in the torment of their victims, threatening to harm or kill them if their victims leave. Many victims feel forced to stay with coercive partners because they are worried their pets could be attacked.

For these reasons, we will reintroduce legislation to amend the Protection From Abuse Act in order to give judges the ability to order the defendant to refrain from abusing the victim’s pets. The Protection From Abuse Act gives judges the ability to order many different kinds of relief in order to prevent further abuse. However, a judge has no explicit authority to order that the defendant not kill or maim a victim’s pets. It is not unusual for defendants to harm a victim’s pet as part of the abuse nor for this concern to prevent victims from escaping their abuser.

Signed in House, Nov. 13, 2024 Signed in Senate, Nov. 13, 2024

PA SB785 - establishes a new Animal Welfare Board empowered to review existing laws and regulations related to the keeping and handling of animals and make recommendations for changes. Unlike a short-focused task force, this Board would continue until such a time that legislation was passed to eliminate it, thereby, allowing it to provide review and recommendation to any law or regulation established going forward. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

Federal Legislative Proposals

HR 8467, The House version of the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2024, also known as the “Farm Bill”, provides the reauthorization for USDA funding. This massive, must-pass legislation commonly serves as a vehicle for a variety of animal and breeder related bills. This measure was approved in markup on May 23, and contained a number of programs/measures including import requirements from the Healthy Dog Importation Act, statutory funding for the National Detector Dog

Federal Bills (continued)

Training Center, funding for domestic violence shelters that allow victims to shelter with their pets, and more. As approved by the H. Agriculture Committee, it did not contain problematic legislation. The bill now goes to the House floor for consideration. A Senate version has not yet been released.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) rule that changes requirements for the importation of dogs into the U.S. went into effect on August 1, 2024. The purpose of the rule is to address the serious public health threat of canine rabies (DMRVV) from dogs irresponsibly imported into the U.S. All dogs entering the U.S. must appear healthy, have an ISO microchip, be 6 months of age, and accompanied by the appropriate paperwork. The new rule also sets out additional requirements for dogs entering the U.S. from medium or high-risk countries. Previous exceptions available for dogs that present low risk profiles, such as the import of fully vaccinated, personally-owned pets, service dogs, and dogs from DMRVV-free or low-risk countries, have been removed. Due to public and international outcry, CDC eased some paperwork requirements for dogs being imported from DMRVV-free or low-risk countries.

HR 1624, known as the Puppy Protection Act, includes numerous arbitrary requirements for dog breeders subject to USDA licensing. Specific requirements include: prohibitions on breeding a female unless pre-screened by a vet and arbitrary breeding restrictions based on an animal's size or age. It also requires unfettered access from a primary enclosure to a run in which the dog can reach a running stride, yearly dental examinations and arbitrary kennel temperature requirements. Proponents of this problematic bill are seeking to add it to the Farm Bill.

The Healthy Dog Importation Act (HR 1184 / S 502), would require owners/importers of all dogs imported into the United States to submit a valid health certificate from a veterinary agency recognized by the USDA. Certificates would demonstrate that dogs being imported are microchipped and fully

vaccinated or protected against contagious diseases and pathogens of concern to the USDA, including rabies. Dogs and records would also be subject to inspection/verification upon entry. Unlike the current CDC temporary rule, this measure focuses specifically on individual health status rather than country of origin. Bill language has been added to the House Farm Bill, HR 8467.

“Goldie’s Act” (HR 1788/S. 4033) would amend the federal Animal Welfare Act to redefine AWA violations and undermine priority for the care and wellbeing of animals by removing a distinction between care and welfare (direct) violations and paperwork/non-welfare related (indirect) violations. It also would require inspectors to destroy or remove an animal if they believe it is suffering psychological harm. The bill does not determine how psychological harm would be determined or by whom. Although the House measure was introduced in 2023, a Senate companion was introduced in March 2024.

The Better CARE for Animals Act (HR 5041/S 2555) is a troublesome measure to significantly expand federal courts’ jurisdiction to unilaterally prosecute violations of AWA regulations. Currently, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has jurisdiction over breeder licensing. Provisions include allowing for the Attorney General to bring a civil action in federal district courts, including restraining orders, injunctions, including seizure of animals, and significant civil penalties against breeders deemed to be in violation of the USDA breeder licensing rules and regulations. It could also potentially remove current licensing exemptions for groups such as hobby breeders.

The Working Dog Health and Welfare Act (HR 6950/S 2414) would ensure implementation of recommendations for protections and standards of care for U.S. Government working dogs as outlined in the January 2022 Government Accountability Office report, “Working Dogs: Federal Agencies Need to Better Address Health and Welfare”. It passed the Senate in January and awaits consideration in the House.

Federal Bills (continued)

HR 1480/S 759, known as the **Beagle Brigade Act**, provides statutory authority for the National Detector Dog Training Center operated by USDA APHIS. The center trains dogs to inspect passenger baggage, cargo, mailed packages, and vehicles to detect foreign pests and diseases that threaten domestic agriculture and natural resources. HR 1480 passed the House in 2023; and language to advance the measure was included in the House

version of the 2024 Farm Bill, HR 8467. The Senate companion measure is awaiting committee action.

HR 7380, the “**Pet Food Uniform Regulatory Reform**” (PURR) Act of 2024, would update the authority of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure national uniformity of pet food labeling and marketing.

Of Interest to All

Ojai, Ca. Breed Ban: In addition to the below AKC explanation, be aware that PETA attorneys have sent out notifications on social media requesting any health issues of ALL purebred dogs. The breeds listed in the below AKC alert could expand to your breed. Be sure to check your local meeting agendas for any dog related ordinances or proposed legislation.

Know that this is extremely dangerous!

Ojai, California, Adopts Severe Dog Breeding Restrictions, Highlights Need for Local Government Vigilance by Fanciers and Breeders – American Kennel Club, www.akc.org

On October 22, the Ojai City Council voted 4-1 to adopt a first-in-the-nation law that prohibits the breeding of dogs and cats with “congenital anatomical features” that are likely to cause the animal or its offspring to suffer pain, deformity, or difficulty expressing natural behaviors, difficulty breathing, difficulty with physical exertion or exercise, or difficulty breeding. It provides no exceptions.

The City Council also voted unanimously to amend Ojai’s mandatory spay/neuter law by eliminating exceptions for (1) dogs that compete in, or are in training for, American Kennel Club (AKC) events and , (2) dogs that are owned by AKC Breeders of Merit. It now allows exceptions for male dogs over 40 pounds to wait until it is two years of age, and for female dogs over 40 pounds until it has experienced one heat cycle. Exceptions remain for service dogs (including those in training), law enforcement and search-and-rescue dogs, and those certified in writing by a veterinarian that the dog cannot be sterilized until after a certain date or because sterilization would be detrimental to the health of the animal.

Both ordinances take effect 30 days after passage.

About Ojai

Ojai is a small city, with a population of approximately 7,500. It already requires the mandatory spay/neuter of dogs by the time they reach six months of age.

In addition to these new anti-breeding laws, the town is known for other first-in-the-nation animal rights-driven laws it has adopted. In September 2024, the town adopted an ordinance that grants bodily autonomy—or habeas corpus rights—to elephants. This means legally, elephants cannot be imprisoned against their will inside city limits. No elephants are known to be located in Ojai.

Summary

Modeled on European breeding regulations, the “unethical breeding” ordinance prohibits any person in Ojai from breeding a dog or cat with congenital anatomical features that are likely to cause the animal or its offspring to suffer pain, deformity, or difficulty expressing natural behaviors, difficulty breathing, difficulty with physical exertion or exercise, or difficulty breeding; and supports this prohibition with a preamble of findings that feature unsubstantiated claims about the number and distribution of animal suffering.

The ordinance provides a lengthy list of characteristics it considers likely to cause suffering:

- Snout length comprising less than one-third of the animal’s head, from the top of the skull to the tip of the muzzle.
- Abnormal or labored breathing sounds during rest, including snoring and snorting when awake.
- Body shapes, including, but not limited to, head size and shape, relative to pelvis that increase the risk of dystocia, perinatal complications, or death.
- Body shape or proportions that do not allow animals to mate naturally without human intervention.

Of Interest to All (continued)

- Exposed sclera when the animal is looking straight ahead caused by shallow eye orbit in the skull.
- Vertebral malformations, including, but not limited to, “corkscrew tails” and the lack of tails.
- Sensory loss, including, without limitation, blindness and deafness.
- Visible skin folds on top of the muzzle.
- Excessive skin folds on body, head, or legs.
- Unnatural posture.
- Stenotic, narrowed, or closed nostrils.
- Elongated or thickened soft palate.
- Hypoplastic trachea.
- Everted laryngeal sacculles.
- Lagophthalmos.
- Exophthalmos.
- Lameness or movement disorders.
- Neurological disorders.
- Chondrodystrophy.

The ordinance empowers peace officers, code enforcement officers, and others designated by the city manager to enforce the prohibitions.

AKC’s Position and Commentary

AKC strongly opposes the breeding of dogs by those who do so without regard for the dogs’ welfare, and takes a strong line on animal cruelty, including implementing a policy that suspends the AKC privileges of anyone charged with animal cruelty involving dogs, and complete revocation of such privileges of anyone convicted of cruelty.

Respectfully, AKC views Ojai’s latest anti-breeding ordinances as (1) unsubstantiated, uninformed, and difficult-to-enforce extremist targeting of breeds, breed characteristics, and responsible purebred dog breeders that is primarily intended to gain media attention and notoriety; (2) a failure of contributing anything of positive consequence for dogs or the ongoing efforts by purebred dog fanciers and veterinary researchers to use science-based approaches to further improve animal health; and (3) ineffective in addressing the issues of shelter populations that are commonly understood to be caused by socioeconomic factors, veterinary care costs, and the return of shelter pets acquired during the Covid-19 pandemic, not by responsible purebred dog breeders who compete in AKC events.

While the new “unethical breeding” law does not explicitly list targeted breeds, the Administrative Report that accompanies the ordinance did. After incorrectly equating a scientific description of head shape (brachycephaly) with physiological deviations

found in dogs with Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS), the report listed the following as common brachycephalic breeds, thereby implying a direct relationship to BOAS: **Boston Terriers, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chow, “English” Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apso, Pekingese, Pugs, and Shih Tzu.**

The report also included a list of breeds with short limbs that it claimed, without scientific evidence, are prone to cartilage defects, joint disease, and a predisposition to spinal problems: **Basset Hounds, Beagles, Dachshunds, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, and Scottish Terriers.**

The Administrative Report, like the official findings included in the ordinance, failed to provide any statistical or scientific substantiation of the claims it made about canine health and suffering. It also failed to provide any information on the work being done both in America and abroad to improve animal health, including veterinary training and implementation of the BOAS Grading Scheme. These, along with the elimination of exceptions to the mandatory spay/neuter ordinance that were designed to benefit AKC Breeders of Merit and dogs that compete in AKC events, indicate that both ordinances and the supporting documentation were written with an anti-dog, anti-breeding, and anti-AKC bias often championed by animal rights groups.

Moreover, the “unethical breeding” ordinance’s extensive list of conditions that it classifies as “likely to cause suffering” features medical terms usually only understood by veterinarians, other experienced veterinary medical professionals, and purebred dog breeders. However, the ordinance does not empower those with this type or level of specialized knowledge to enforce it. Instead, everyday peace and code enforcement officers are given that power. AKC believes this is a disparity that will lead to uninformed, onerous, inconsistent, and potentially prejudicial enforcement, if the ordinance is enforced at all.

What You Can Do

All breeders, owners, and residents in Ojai, along with all AKC-affiliated clubs, and all national breed parent clubs, are strongly encouraged to express opposition to the ordinance to the members of the Ojai City Council. (Scroll down for discussion points.)

- District 1: Councilmember Leslie Rule; (805) 646-5581
- District 2: Councilmember Rachel Lang; (805) 646-5581

Of Interest to All (continued)

- District 3: Mayor Pro Tempore Andrew Whitman; (805) 646-5581
- District 4: Councilmember Suza Francina; contactCD4@lacity.org; (805) 646-5581
- At-Large: Mayor Betsy Stix; (805) 646-5581

Some points to be sure to mention to your councilmember:

- This ordinance ends the ability of responsible city residents to produce certain breeds of dogs and establishes a dangerous precedent for radical legislative proposals around California and the rest of the country.
- This ordinance assumes that all brachycephalic animals, including dogs, suffer from serious health issues. In fact, brachycephaly does not equal unhealthy. Across all dog and other animal types, multiple factors can contribute to differences in breathing, including physical condition, environment, and genetics. Nevertheless, all breeding of brachycephalic and chondrodystrophic breeds of dogs—regardless of health, breeder background, fancier status, or club affiliation—will be prohibited under the ordinance, which will have a chilling effect on all responsible dog breeding.
- This ordinance implies that all who breed dogs do so without regard for the dogs' welfare. Facts demonstrate that responsible purebred dog breeders are passionate about both preserving breed characteristics and producing healthier successive generations.
- Protecting and promoting responsible breeders and the puppies they produce is a better solution than blanket bans based on inaccurate or incomplete information that creates a perverse incentive for city residents to buy puppies of unknown source without predictable traits or health backgrounds.
- Ojai's residents would be better served through enforcing and supporting the strengthening of California's consumer protection laws for pet purchasers.

Visit Breeding Regulations and Restrictions in the AKC Legislative Action Center for more talking points and information.

Staying Vigilant About What Local Governments Are Doing Is Key

Unfortunately, AKC only learned of Ojai's latest anti-breeding ordinances after they had been adopted, not before. While we use sophisticated government relations tracking systems that keep us up-to-date on federal and state-level issues, no tracking system in existence today, including ours, accurately or timely tracks what the more than 33,000 local jurisdictions in the United States are up to. And while media reports may be helpful, search engines and news aggregators provide only partial information. These are the reasons why AKC strongly encourages all purebred dog fanciers and breeders to be vigilant about what dog-related issues are being discussed in your communities. Here are some simple strategies to use:

- Monitor local news outlets to learn of any animal incidents in your community. Incidents are often the catalyst for changes in the law. Following their social media pages aggregates their reports for you into one convenient location.
- Follow your lawmakers on social media. They often report about their accomplishments in office because they want to be seen as doing of something of benefit for their constituents.
- Regularly check city and county websites, or subscribe to their social media accounts if they have them. Meeting agendas and calendars are often posted on these sites. If your city or county has an animal advisory committee, information about it is usually posted on their websites.

When something dog-related does come up, it is vitally important that you **share that information with AKC Government Relations (GR)**. A simple email to doglaw@akc.org with your city or county's name and a link to online reports, or a simple summary written by you, is all it takes to alert us.

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AKC GR will provide updates on Ojai as developments warrant. For questions or more information on California legislation, contact AKC GR at doglaw@akc.org.

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<http://PAFederationOfDogClubs.org>



Outstanding Club for 2024

The Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg is both a dog training club and a group of dog trainers and owners who truly care about their dogs and what happens to dogs in our community. We are not a very large club - under a hundred members - but we all work to benefit people and their dogs.

As a club we offer the Canine Good Citizen test to dog owners in our obedience classes and to the public in the hope that people will have trained dogs who are welcome in their neighborhoods. Many of these dogs go on to take the Therapy Dogs International test and join the reading programs we have started in neighborhood schools where the second graders read to our dogs on a weekly basis. Many of our members also visit nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities on a regular basis so our dogs can bring joy to those who have need of a dog's love.

Another group of our members works on Friday when OTCH rents our building to Dog T.A.G.S. This is a non-profit organization which trains the dogs of combat veterans who are suffering from post traumatic stress or traumatic brain injury to be their service dogs. We have four levels of classes to train the dogs at no cost to the veterans - all expenses are paid and all trainers are volunteers who receive no compensation other than the joy of seeing the veterans regain the lives lost in service to their country.

OTCH offers classes in the evening in basic obedience for community members who have bought or rescued dogs in need of training. The fees from this service pay for our rent and upkeep of the building. People bring puppies, rescued dogs, older dogs who all need obedience training in order for the dogs to be a part of their families. Our goal as a club is that these dogs become members of those families and do not end up surrendered to shelters, kill or otherwise. Again, our members are not paid to run these training classes, but volunteer their services because we all want trained dogs who will be welcomed in their homes.

The club also runs trials on weekends in obedience and rally in different venues and scent work. These are open to the public, but our members volunteer their time to run these trials also.

On the whole the Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg is a working and welcome part of the community. We offer our time and building to the benefit of our neighbors and feel that we definitely deserve to be recognized by the PA Federation of Dog Clubs for our outstanding service to our community and to the dog owners of this community.

Sincerely yours,

Joan M. Klingler, Training Director for OTCH
1 Souder Court, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050



Upcoming Events

Lower Bucks Dog Training Club events at Up Front Dog Training Center, 128 Arneystown-Hornerstown Road, Allentown, NJ 08501 (<https://lbdtc.org/dog-trials/>)

- Obedience Trial on, Jan. 1, 2025 Opening Date - Sept. 25, 2024 at 8:00am; Closing Date - Dec. 13, 2024 at 6:00pm
- Obedience Trial on April 19, 2025 / Rally Trial on April 20, 2025 (Pending)
- Obedience Trial on July 5, 2025 / Rally Trial on July 6, 2025 (Pending)

2024 PFDC Outstanding Individual Award Winner

Lower Paxton officer cares for dogs while owner is in surgery



Story and photo of Mr. Cleveland are by WHP

“An Angel Came to My Door”

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Pa. (WHP / CBS 21) – A good deed from a great officer.

Bryan Cleveland went recently into the hospital for abdominal pain and needed surgery.

He had no where to turn when it came to needing someone to take care of his dogs, so a Lower Paxton Police officer met him at the hospital, got his keys, and went above and beyond.

“I’ve had them since they were born,” Cleveland said when talking about his two dogs, Diamond and Diesel.

“Diamond, she has her own little attitude. Diesel, he has his own attitude but they’re superb dogs.”

Cleveland stated that for the previous few weeks he had felt pain in his abdomen and thought it would go away.

After seeing a doctor, Cleveland was met with a shocking realization.

“They said I have to rush into surgery because it’s life-threatening. They rushed me into surgery. I went into the emergency room at seven and I was in surgery by nine,” Cleveland recounts.

But then, Cleveland received even more disheartening news.

Not only would he be there for surgery, but he would be there days, away from his dogs.

Not knowing where to turn, Cleveland called Lower Paxton Police.

“That day I didn’t have no one, so I figured I’d call police. I just told them my situation but to my surprise, he said he knows an officer who’s a dog lover.”

Following that, Cleveland didn’t hesitate.

“I gave them my emergency room number, where I was at, and they sent the officer probably 15-20 minutes later. An angel came to my door. Miss Gonzalez. Miss Officer Gonzalez.”

Cleveland, thankful for Officer Gonzalez’ assistance as he said she went above and beyond her role as an officer.

“We need that in the communities. We need people to be able to reach out and call and get help.”

Cleveland says Officer Gonzalez’ act of kindness will stay with him for the rest of his life.

CBS 21 also reached out to Officer Gonzalez, who was touched by Cleveland’s appreciation, and provided the following statement:

I am deeply humbled by Mr. Cleveland’s gratitude. It’s heartwarming to see the impact of simple acts of kindness on others. I am a dog lover and have dogs of my own so I empathized with him during his predicament.