



Airedale Terrier Club of Greater Philadelphia  
Allentown DTC  
Anthracite Brittany Club  
Berks County DTC  
Berks County Kennel Club  
Bernese Mt Dog Club of Watchung  
Borzo Club of Delaware Valley  
Bull Terrier Club of Philadelphia Inc.  
Butler County Kennel Club  
Butler Dog Training Association  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of  
Delaware Valley  
Central PA K9 Performance Club  
Colonial Rottweiler Club  
Dachshund Fanciers Assoc. of Berks County  
Dauphin Dog Training Club  
Delaware Valley Dalmatian Club  
Delaware Valley German Shepherd Dog Club  
Delaware Valley Havanese Club  
Delaware Valley Hound Assoc.  
Delaware Valley 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  
Inter-State Shetland Sheepdog Club of PA  
Kan-Do K9 Sports Association  
Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Greater Pittsburgh  
Lancaster Kennel Club  
Lebanon County Kennel Club  
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club  
Liberty English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers  
Lower Bucks Dog Training Club  
Middle Atlantic St Bernard Club  
Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg  
PA Sled Dog Club  
Penn Ridge Kennel Club  
Penn Treaty Kennel Club  
Penn-Dutch Great Pyrenees Club  
Poodle Club of the Lehigh Valley  
Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired  
Pointer Club  
Siberian Husky Club of Delaware Valley  
South Eastern Keystone Chinese Shar-Pei Club  
Tioga County Kennel Club  
Tri State Dog Obedience Club  
Western PA Dachshund Club  
Williamsport Dog Training Club  
York County Dog Training Club

# Dogs are Barking About...

Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs Newsletter

Volume I, 2024

## Legislative Report

### Current Legislation 11/16/2023

#### PA Dog Law Modernization, Act 18 of 2023

The PFDC has long supported increasing funding for the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. Since millions of dollars were taken out of the Dog Law Restricted Account to balance the General Fund budget in 2009, the BDLE has been running in the red and needing infusions of tax dollars to stay in operation. The increases in individual license fees and kennel license fees are moderate, especially considering it has been decades since they were last changed.

Since we were able to get amendments to both SB746 and HB1322 to protect the Health Certificate exemption for dogs coming into the Commonwealth for show, trials and other competitions, we supported the Bill and encouraged members of our member organizations to contact their state Senators and Representatives in Harrisburg to support them.

Some welcome changes include:

- Individual dog licenses will no longer cost more for unaltered dogs.
- The PA Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement will be required to develop a web site to allow dog owners to purchase licenses online. We believe this will greatly increase individual dog licensing compliance.
- Future dog license and kennel license fees will be a matter of regulation. It will not be necessary to pass a Bill to change them going forward. However, we will still have a say with the PA Regulatory Review Board when new rates are requested, and Legislators have the ability to stop regulatory changes with a simple majority vote.
- The threshold for licensing a puppy will remain at 12 weeks *or when ownership of the puppy is transferred to anyone*. Sellers will be required to provide licensing paperwork to the buyers, but the responsibility will be on the buyers to obtain the license.

Some items of concern include:

- 2 week quarantine for dogs imported to the state permanently. This does not include dogs coming to PA for shows, trials, tests and other competitive events.
- Change from a health certificate to a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection.
- Increase in penalties for those found to be operating a kennel without a license, to a class 3 misdemeanor, which could carry jail time. For those who may inadvertently exceed the 26 dogs "handled" in a year, because of the vagueness of that definition, we see this penalty as excessive.

### Pennsylvania Senate Bills

- **SB82** – License fee exemptions for service dogs used by fire dept, sheriff, rescue, medical emergency, municipal or state police. Declares dogs as personal property. **SUPPORT**

## Pennsylvania Senate Bills (continued)

- **SB357** – Constitutional Carry of a Firearm. Would refer to hunting and sporting groups **SUPPORT**
- **SB624** – Lost Dog Hotline and Lost Dog Registry within the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. The question is funding sources given current shortfalls at the BDLE. **SUPPORT**
- **SB658** (Mastriano) – Combating Cruel Testing on Dogs and Cats. We question the need for this legislation because most institutions of higher education have ethics review boards that double check the need for the use of animals in scientific experimentation. We recognize the need for such use in both medical and veterinary science and do not support an out-right ban. **Neutral**
- Dogs used in medical and veterinary research. Generally speaking, we see the need for research using animal subjects, but obviously they need to be handled as humanely as possible. Most research facilities, both academic and private, have ethics review boards to evaluate the need for animal subjects. We believe most of those do a good job, so we question the need for these Bills. **NEUTRAL**
  - ◊ **SB701** – Regulating kennels that produce dogs for research
  - ◊ **SB702** – Amend Dog Law regarding research kennels
  - ◊ **SB703** – Amend Cruelty Laws regarding research kennels
- **SB785** (Yaw) – Animal Advisory Board. This board shall review existing laws and regulations in this Commonwealth related to keeping and handling of animals and make recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes. The board shall meet at least every two years, or as they see fit, to fulfill the duties under this act. The board shall develop an initial report making certain recommendations or regulatory changes that would need brought before the General Assembly.
  - ◊ This board will consist of the following:
    - » The Secretary of Agriculture or a designee.
    - » One member who is a resident of this Commonwealth from each of the following:
      - The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.
      - The College of Agricultural Sciences of The Pennsylvania State University.
      - The American Kennel Club.
      - The Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania.
      - The Northeast Beagle Gundog Federation.
      - The Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
      - The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.
      - PennAg Industries Association.
      - The Pennsylvania State Grange.
      - The Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania.
      - The Office of Attorney General.
      - The Pennsylvania State Police.
      - The Pet Advocacy Network.
    - » Two members who are residents of this Commonwealth from each of the following:
      - The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, at least one of whom represents a licensed kennel.
      - The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association.

The Legislative Committee of the PFDC supports Senator Yaw in his efforts and appreciates the opportunity of two (2) seats at the table. Should this bill pass and the Advisory Board becomes a reality, we are well aware that this will be a battleground of animal rights vs animal welfare. However, we are prepared for the challenge of reviewing those existing bills that need amended and new bills that require scrutiny. This will be our opportunity to educate legislators by voicing our needs and positions regarding current and future legislation. We will make every effort to align our positions with like-minded animal welfare members of the board and continue to protect our member clubs, their members, breeders and their dogs.
- **SB979** (Culver) – Public Information Regarding Bio-Security. This proposal would require retailers of livestock and pet food to post notices of “dangerous transmissible diseases”. **Support**

## Pennsylvania House Bills

- **HB86** – Legislation to allow any 501c3 or 501c6 organization to sell liquor for fundraising purposes. **Neutral**
- **HB139** – Taking the Judiciary out of Dog Law – under current law, all fines, fees and costs collected are deposited into the Judicial System account. The transfers include amounts imposed under Act 225 – AKA – Dog Law – that would be used to fund the operations of the Dept of Ag, which oversees Dog Law Enforcement. This legislation addresses this issue by exempting fines, fees and costs under the Dog Law from being transferred to the Judicial Computer System. Accounts for approximately 200K per year. **SUPPORT**
- **HB222** – Cruelty to Animals – violation causing bodily harm due to cropping, trimming or cutting off the whole or part of the ear or ears of the animal by a person who is not a licensed Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. **SUPPORT**
  - ◇ 1st offense – misdemeanor of the 2nd degree
  - ◇ 2nd offense – misdemeanor of the 1st degree
- **HB449** – Kidnapping of Animals – Establishes tough penalties for intentionally selling or taking of any dog, cat, equine, swine, cattle – any animal – to resell to puppy mills, research facilities or animal Fighters. **Neutral** pending clarification.
- **HB508** – Banning of cat declawing – specifically refers to only cats; however, it refers to “animal mutilation,” which we all should know that the AR groups refer to dewclaw removal, cropping and docking as “mutilation.” This is a private decision between the owner and their vet. (Should this bill pass, their next step would be dogs.) **OPPOSE**
- **HB526** – Requires pet shops to provide all health, medical and breeder licensing numbers – “keeping breeders honest” **SUPPORT**
- **HB529** – Animal Cruelty – Transporting dogs – supported by the American Humane Society – prohibits transporting of dogs unrestrained in truck beds or car roofs. This proposal will “not apply to a dog transported in a secured insulated cage or container which is designed to facilitate the safe transportation of a dog and will prevent the dog from being exposed to outside weather conditions and from falling, jumping or being thrown from the vehicle.” **SUPPORT**
- **HB530** – Animal cruelty – Restriction of Animal Ownership – all “convicted” abusers prohibited from owning, possessing, controlling or working with animals for at least 2 years – also requires abusers to participate in violence prevention counseling. \*NOTE: Refers to Libre’s Law (Act10) – Over 25,000 Animal abuse cases have been filed statewide – 54% for neglect. **OPPOSE**
- **HB549** – All Dogs Equal – All Dogs in all kennels should be held to the same State licensed standard that requires specific construction, heating, cooling, exercise, etc. \*NOTE – Rescue/rehomers are generally not State licensed. This bill would include those groups. **SUPPORT**
- **HB607** – Introduces legislation to permit the Attorney General to investigate and institute criminal proceedings for a felony offense regarding animal cruelty to animals. This would permit the assistance of the Attorney General in prosecuting animal cruelty cases in counties which have little experience in doing so. \*NOTE – The Attorney General’s office is in partnership with the H\$U\$. **OPPOSE**
- **HB689** – Applies to crimes and offenses relating to sexual intercourse with an animal. \*NOTE – We read this bill specifically searching for AI use. In another state where a similar proposal was introduced, it included artificial insemination as a sexual offense. That was not listed in this bill, so we are concerned about its intent. We want Representative Jordan Harris to clarify the proposal’s intent on that topic. **NEUTRAL**
- **HB1052** – Exempting Detection Dogs from licensing. **SUPPORT**
- **HB1099** – Defend the Flock. On the surface, this Bill is about poultry flocks. However, the definitions in it concern us because they could be interpreted to apply to all domestic animals. We are currently **NEUTRAL** but will continue to monitor it.
- **HB1108** (Kulik) – Animals in Divorce Cases. This Bill has a very problematic definition of domestic animals and some assertions about pets as property that worry us. **Oppose** as written pending clarification.
- **HB1210** (Sappey/Mihalek) – Animal Abuse in Domestic Violence Situations. This is a “we are doing something about this horrible problem” proposal that is actually unnecessary because such abuse is already illegal under Humane Laws. **Do Not Support** because of redundancy.
- **HB1661** (Metzgar) – Criminalizing illicit possession of xylazine, with veterinary use exemptions. This proposal seeks to criminalize the illicit use of xylazine by people for recreation, while keeping the necessary sedative available to veterinarians. **Support**

## Pennsylvania Senate Resolutions

- **SR57** – Sen. Mastriano, Designate March 13, 2023 as “K9 Veterans and Service Day” in PA. “Canine services include dogs and their handlers, trainers and other helpers involved in police services, drug enforcement, customs, border patrol, secret service, military, and many other capacities. In my view they have earned our thanks for their efforts to protect us all.” **SUPPORT**

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

- **HR1624 – Puppy Protection Act.** This H\$U\$-backed proposal is an incremental approach to bringing everything we do under Federal oversight. It is their common one-size-fits-all approach that mandates practices down to a minute level. The mandates include...

### Prohibiting the breeding of a female dog:

- Unless pre-screened by a veterinarian
- Based arbitrarily on the age and size of the dog.
- If it would produce more than two litters in an 18-month period.

### Additional arbitrary requirements include but are not limited to:

- Mandated unfettered access from dogs’ primary enclosures to an outdoor exercise area large enough that it “allows dogs to extend to full stride.” This would create a potentially dangerous environment for multiple dogs.
- Mandated annual dental exams.
- Mandated indoor space sufficient to allow the tallest dog in an enclosure to stand on his or her hind legs without touching the roof of the enclosure. For family dogs that live in their owner’s homes, the primary enclosure may be considered the dog’s sleeping crate.
- Mandated pre-breeding screenings. No specific details are provided for what the screening would involve or who would make these decisions.
- Prohibition on the keeping of dogs in enclosures above 85°F or below 45°F, regardless of breed or acclimation needs for dogs that hunt, sled, detect explosives, or do other work and thrive in cooler temperatures, or that must be acclimated to cooler or warmer temperatures for their safety.
- Completely solid flooring, despite scientific recognition that multiple types of high-quality flooring, including engineered slatted flooring, is beneficial in certain types of kennels and with certain breeds.  
<https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/us-congress-proposed-breeder-restrictions-impact-tell-congress-oppose>  
The PFDC believes humane legislation and kennel regulation belong at the state level. **OPPOSE HR1624**
- **HR1788 Include Livestock and Poultry in the AWA (Goldies Bill)** – more incrementalism on the part of those who are opposed to any animal ownership, including our dogs. They use the phrase “puppy mills” in reference to USDA licensed kennels, which they are not. It tries to define “suffering” as almost anything short of pushing them around in a baby carriage. The proponents are attempting to include the proposal in the current Farm Bill. **OPPOSE**

### Supreme Court ruling on California Pork Import regulations, and the EATS proposal

On the surface, it seems this has nothing to do with dogs or us. Unfortunately, that is not true. The ruling carries a precedence that is still being evaluated. It could lead to California’s exceedingly strict animal laws being applied to breeders in the rest of the country. Everyone should pay attention to this developing story.

In response to this ruling, Congress has introduced the Ending Agricultural Trade Suppression (EATS) Bill (H.R. 4417/S. 2019). This would prevent animal-related Bills passed in one State from affecting the Laws and Regulations of others. It was proposed as a way to address livestock regulations in California that are creating a burden for producers in other states. We see how this could be applied to breeders and puppies being shipped between states. **SUPPORT**

# **New Hampshire HB1102 is a Step in the Wrong Direction for All Dogs in All States**

January 9, 2024

One thing is perfectly clear with regards to this proposal: this is only the first step. Today it is only New Hampshire, and the condition is only Brachycephalic. Make no mistake, proponents of this proposal, which started in Europe, will not stop until they have a laundry list of conditions, in a lot of States. We are quite sure; their ultimate goal is to make it Federal Law.

A major problem with this proposal is who decides what breeds are brachycephalic. Will it be politicians who have little knowledge of animal husbandry, agenda-driven, unelected bureaucrats or veterinary academics who may also be driven by a radical agenda?

Next question would be are all members of that breed then considered to be suffering from the condition, or are individuals evaluated? Clearly there members of breeds currently labeled brachycephalic that compete at a high level in agility, Fast CAT and other strenuous sports successfully. How can this one-size-fits-all proposal legitimately say those animals are suffering?

We believe consumer education is the best way to address any excesses that lead to animals suffering. Consumer protection proposals like the PA Dog Purchaser Protection Act (Puppy Lemon Law) are far more effective than one-size-fits-all proposals like New Hampshire's HB1102.

We urge all members of all our member clubs to watch for similar proposals, even at a local level. Even if your favorite breed is not brachycephalic, think about what conditions are inherent in them that could be used to regulate or eliminate their breeding should this type of legislation get a foot-hold. Please let us at the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs know as soon as possible if you hear of any similar proposals anywhere, even in other States.

Darin Cox  
President  
Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs



## Upcoming Events

- Feb 22 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, Gloucester Co Dream Park, Swedesboro, NJ
- Feb 24 – Greater Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC sanctioned ‘B’ Match, Frenchtown, NJ
- Feb 24-25 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, C-WAGs Obedience, Rally, Scentwork, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Feb 25 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Scent Work Seminar with Chris Eicher, DDTC training center
- Mar 1-2 – Harrisburg Kennel Club, Scent Work Trials, St. Andrews in the Valley, Harrisburg, PA
- Mar 2-3 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Agility, Dandy Dog training center, Bloersville, PA
- Mar 8-10 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Seminar with Britney Imhoff, DDTC training center
- Mar 9-10 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Show, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Mar 16 – Dachshund Fanciers Assoc of Berks Co, Specialty, Celtic Cluster, York, PA
- Mar 17 – Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Specialty, Celtic Cluster, York, PA
- Mar 22 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva, DDTC training center
- Mar 23 – Tri-State Dog Obedience Club, UKC Obedience, Shohola, PA
- Mar 23-24 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Nosework, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- Mar 30-31 – Dachshund Fanciers Assoc of Berks Co, Field Trial, Wyoming Valley Beagle Club, Hunlock Creek, PA
- April 10-14 – Blue & Gray Cluster AKC Shows, PA Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA
- April 12-13 Keystone English Springer Spaniel Clubs, Specialty at Blue-Gray Cluster honoring former President Thomas Faust, Harrisburg, PA
- April 12-14 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, In the Net, Palmyra, PA
- April 13-14 – Grtr Val Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC lure coursing, Somerset Park, Somerset, NJ
- April 13-14 – Schuylkill Valley German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Hunt Test, Freeland KC, Weatherly, PA
- April 19 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva, DDTC training center
- April 19-21 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Fast CAT, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- April 20 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Obedience, Upfront Farm, Allentown, NJ
- Apr 20-21 – Obedience Training Class of Hbg, UKC Rally & Obedience, OTCH training center, Mechanicsburg, PA
- April 21 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Rally, Upfront Farm, Allentown, NJ
- April 28 – Tri-State Dog Obedience Club, UKC Nosework, Shohola, PA
- May 4 – Grtr Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, Regional Specialty, Bucks Co KC show, Trenton, NJ
- May 10 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva

## Upcoming Events, Continued

- May 16-19 – Harrisburg KC/Chambersburg Area KC, Fast CAT, South Mountain Fairgrounds, Biglerville, PA
- May 19 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, United Dog, Huntingdon Valley, PA
- May 20-21 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, Bella Vista training center, Lewisberry, PA
- June 7-9 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, United Dog, Huntingdon Valley, PA
- June 15-16 – Grtr Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC Fast CAT, Somerset Park, Somerset, NJ
- June 21-22 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Obedience, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- June 23 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Rally, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- June 28 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Judy Kolva
- July 28 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Scent Work, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- August 6 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, Bella Vista training center, Lewisberry, PA
- August 24-25 – Lower Bucks Dog Training Club, Agility, Y2K9 Sports Club, Willow Grove, PA
- August 30-31 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Obedience, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- September 1 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Rally, DDRC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- September 13-15 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility Handling Seminar with Britney Imhoff
- September 20-22 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Fast CAT, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- September 21-22 – Grtr Valley Forge Rhodesian Ridgeback Club, AKC lure coursing, location to be determined
- September 21-22 – Dachshund Fanciers Assoc of Berks Co, Earth Dog Tests
- October 13 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Tracking, Betsy Keen farm, Carlisle, PA
- October 13 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Scent Work, Harrisburg Area Community College, Harrisburg, PA
- October 17-20 – Chambersburg Area KC/Harrisburg KC, Fast CAT, Oakside Comm Park, Biglerville, PA
- October 18-20 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Agility, In the Net, Palmyra, PA
- November 15-16 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Obedience, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA
- November 17 – Dauphin Dog Training Club, Rally, DDTC training center, Manada Hill, PA

## Board Member Profile:

# Lorraine Simmons

I have been showing dogs for 40+ years. I started with Great Danes in 1976. Dachshunds became part of my life in 1980. I have owned smooths, longs, standards and mini over the years. I participate in Conformation, Field Trials, Earth dog, Obedience, and Rally. There are five generations of Dual Champions in my "Stardox" line. I have dogs in my line that have BISS, ROMX, ROMO, and a #1 DCA field dog.

I owned and operated a boarding and grooming kennel for twenty-seven years. At the kennel and at all breed clubs, I taught Conformation handling classes to adults and juniors. I am currently teaching show handling classes at Fieldwood dog training center. I am a conformation judge for Dachshunds & Great Danes as well as a Dachshund field judge. In this capacity I strive to achieve fairness and integrity. I share my love of Dachshunds with my husband David.

### Club Memberships, Positions and Committees:

- **Dachshund Club of America:** Member 30 years, former (DCA Region 6 Chair) - 3 years, former (DCA National Region Chair) -2 years.
- **Dachshund Club Of New Jersey:** Member 32 years, Current board member, past President (8 years). As a working committee member, I secure the grounds, and judges for DCNJ Field trials.
- **Dachshund Fanciers Association of Berks County:** Member, 10 years. (Chair - conformation Judges selection committee), Chair- (By Laws committee). Field Trial committee chair. I secure the judges and grounds for DFABC field trials.
- **Great Dane Club of America** - Member 30 years.
- **Great Dane Club of PA.:** 10 years, former working member.
- **New Brunswick Kennel Club NJ:** Member 22 years. Currently, (Show Catalog Advertising Chair).
- **DCA 2021 National:** Earth Dog Committee- (coordinated the food and grounds on my property for hosting the National Earth Dog). Field Trial Committee- (coordinated the meals and securing the grounds for the National Field Trial).
- It was an honor to be elected and to Judge Long Hair Dachshunds at the Dachshund Club of America National Show in 2023.

President: Darin Cox    President@PAFederationOfDogClubs.org    717-877-4336

First Vice President: Edith Rysdyk

Second Vice President (Legislative Chair): Linda Witouski    Treasurer: Kim Blyler    Secretary: Bettina Sterling

Board Members: Danna Deimler, Cheryl Demarkis, Melanie Eng, Robin Piorun,

Lorraine Simmons, Jonathan Stanley, and Judy Swanson

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<http://PAFederationOfDogClubs.org>