



**Meeting**  
**February 18, 2009 at Gander Mountain in**  
**Germantown. 6:30 PM Board meeting, 7:00 PM**  
**General Membership meeting.**

I would like to first wish everyone a Happy New Year 2009.

The legislature started January 5<sup>th</sup> following their swearing in ceremony. This legislature will be facing many hard decisions because of the economy and the state's budget shortfall.

Even with the State of Wisconsin in an economic squeeze and a budget that is essentially on life support, it will not stop the legislature from working or passing legislation that could affect the dog fancy.

There are several bills being talked about and they are targeting all types of breeders and owners. We will send out alerts as soon as any bills are introduced. DFOW and our lobbyist have made great efforts to be available to the legislators to discuss anything having to do with dogs. We will continue to do what is right and just when legislation comes forward.

Please mark your calendars for May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to join us in Madison for our Legislative Day. The time will be from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We need to know how many will be in attendance. Please email: Madison @ DFOW. org (remove the spaces) and let us know how many will be attending as well as a phone number to contact. You may also send in the reservation found on page 7. The legislature will be in session on this date and we look forward to visiting with our representatives and senators at the capitol. It will be an educational day for all.

Even though many of us would rather be training our dogs, or attending dog shows or just enjoying our pets, we need to be vigilant of the bills that will be introduced in this session. The states surrounding Wisconsin are all being hit with the same types of legislation. The HSUS has been hard at work pushing for legislation with the same video footage and rhetoric they used here in Wisconsin in the last session. If it wasn't so serious it would be funny how every state happens to be the puppy mill capitol of the United States.

We would like to welcome K-9 Obedience Training Club of Menomonee Falls. They hosted our Candidates forum this past summer and I would like to thank them and all of our member clubs for their continued support.

Our next general meeting will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup>, please plan on attending.

*Joy Brand*

**DFOW Officers & Board**

President Joy Brand  
Vice President Tracey Johnston  
Secretary Heidi Brahn  
Treasurer Wendy Biewer  
Board of Directors:  
Toni Raden  
Patti Krueger  
Connie Kieckhefer

## REALITY CHECK—by Joy Brand

I read the article in Milwaukee Magazine regarding Dog Federation's efforts in regard to past legislation. I am saddened that the media of today has gone the sensationalistic route of selling their news by using libelous and defamatory rhetoric. In the animal rights (AR's) attempt to sway public opinion against DFOW and myself, I see a couple of things. First - we seem to be enough of a threat to their agenda that they have to stoop to such propaganda. Secondly that they still don't understand anything we have been trying to educate them about.

Milwaukee Magazine had tried to gain an interview with me and I did not speak with the reporter that did the piece. Anything you have read there was found through other sources and things that were done innocently (as any citizen would do – and is our right in a democratic society) was spun into negative connotations. That is how desperate the Animal Rights (AR's) individuals must be getting.

DFOW has tried working with committees to guide their thinking when forming conclusions. Yet, we have been crucified for telling them the truth about appropriate animal husbandry.

Perhaps we should be mentioning that these shelter organizations don't seem to know the difference between male and female dogs. How else would a shelter taking possession of a commercial breeders' stock end up with 12 litters of puppies in foster care at a time when there should have been no puppies. The litters in question were bred (not whelped) 2 months after they took possession of the dogs. Did the media jump on the bandwagon to disclose that FACT? People with even a rudimentary understanding of dogs know that it takes 63 days to create a puppy. Those puppies were born more than 3 months after the shelter had possession. Plainly stated the shelter was breeding dogs.

Bred is defined as putting a dog in with a female in season to create puppies. Whelped means that the puppies are born.

We aren't disclosing this information in retribution of the AR's media smear campaign. We are stating it to show the bias and hidden agenda of the media today. It is also being used to show that the media in their attempts to help that agenda will not disclose any information which would negatively reflect on those same organizations. Perhaps it's time the legislators know the whole story that seems to be hidden from their view by the careful manipulation of the media.

When did working for a shelter make an individual more knowledgeable about dogs simply by being a volunteer? When did that give them more creditability? When did shelters start being the experts? People today still believe that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is the main shelter that manages all the others. When will that rumor stop? When will the media clarify that information to the general populace so that the unsuspecting public could save their dollars and donate them to a local shelter that could really use the money?

It's time that shelters go back to what they were originally intended to do. That intent was to take care of the strays and relinquished dogs in the cities/villages/counties where they are established. They do not have authority to do undercover operations, they aren't brokers (yet they buy dogs from other states and bring them here for sale in their shelters). Before the legislators attempt to regulate commercial breeders out of existence, they need to understand what it is they are being manipulated to do.

Without commercial breeders in this State shelters and rescues will continue to bring in dogs to our State for sale from other commercial entities. What does this mean? It means that they are

BROKERS pushing the competition out of their way by regulating them out of existence. The shelter organizations in this State aren't regulated, yet how are they any different from a commercial entity? They want the regulations to be tough, except they want to be exempt. They want to have a lemon law for breeders, yet they want to have the puppies that they sell exempt because they are selling other peoples problems (or so they say). Can we say that they have confused the whole situation behind a smoke screen?

Legislators need to see them for who they really are. They want you to donate to them so they can go buy more puppies, make themselves the heroes of the day and regulate away the rights of the very citizens working to make a living in this state. The animal rights individuals call breeders in Wisconsin PROFITEERS, what do they call themselves? Before you call anyone a name, better look in the mirror folks. They say that they recoup money for spay/neutering and vaccinations and other things. Do they not think that breeders do the same thing? Dogs can be bred 2 times per year if you are lucky. Not multiples as indicated by the less knowledgeable. During the in between times all dogs must be vaccinated, fed, treated for illness and the like. Kennels must be maintained and like any business, taxes must be paid, workers must be paid, business expenses must be paid. If a breeder is making a huge profit, they are extremely lucky. In the times when the economy has sunk to new lows, where are the shelters offering their assistance to help breeders?

Regulation of commercial dog entities is something that we have discussed, but it needs to be done NOT by animal rights folks, but by those individuals that have the knowledge of breeding dogs. Why is that? Because the breeding of dogs is as diverse an industry as you have ever seen. Dogs are not JUST companion animals; they are working dogs, hunters, mushers, security, soldiers, police dogs, service dogs and more. Every purpose requires that dogs be raised differently. Each of these also has requirements as it pertains to docking/cropping and the like. Each breed of dog has its own uniqueness and a one size fits all law will not work. That is what the animal rights groups don't understand!

The animal rights individuals wouldn't know this because they don't know about dogs. Nor do they care except to hurt the very individuals that do care about dogs.

Dogs are used by the animal rights individuals as pawns in their game. They can use them as hostages by having them seized. They can have anonymous tips called in to law enforcement to legally harass dog owners. They can cause the courts to issue search warrants to cause people already strapped for cash to give up their dogs rather than fork over fines, fees and kennel costs because of their activities. Why is that? There aren't any laws to protect the citizens from these animal rights groups working the system to their advantage.

Not once, when asked, have these groups come forward to tell the definition of what a "Puppy Mill" is. Dog Federation has always stated that if there are activities that are truly bad, laws are currently on the books that will allow them to be prosecuted.

We have been accused of not allowing the legislation to proceed against these so called "bad commercial breeders". The bills in previous sessions included provisions that would have harmed not helped Wisconsinites. In the last session the legislators didn't fully understand the ramifications of the bill that they were supporting. This was pointed out to them at the public hearing and confirmed through legislative counsel. The outcome was that the legislation was stopped.

Appropriate animal husbandry techniques have been offered to those intending to write legislation, we have been told that those techniques are not appropriate by animal welfare advocates. Puppies should be on solid floors where they can walk in their urine and feces, according to them. Doesn't

matter how thick the wire strand flooring in the puppy pen, it is wrong. We have been told that whelping boxes are coffins and mother dogs (bitches) are left in them for years. Where does all this misinformation start?

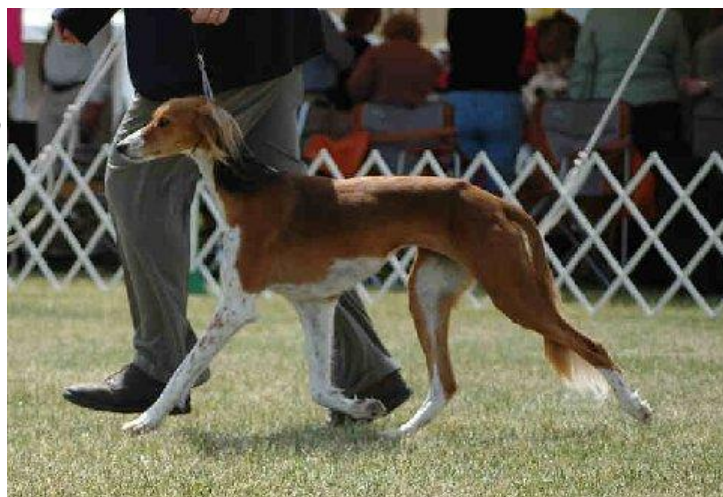
Dog fanciers care about the health and welfare of the dogs in their care and there are those that don't. Just as in every facet of life there are those that don't listen to reason, use common sense or do what is right and just. While we would all like to have people see things through our point of view, there is and needs to be a distinction between an individual persons' point of view and that which is right and just.

*It was pointed out that this article seemed like it was shelter bashing (during a preview printing on an e-list); realize that breeders of all sizes are tired of breeder bashing. There are good shelters doing good work and there are breeders doing the same. Unfortunately just the way breeders are all lumped together, shelters will be lumped together. No one seems to feel bad when breeders are maligned/misquoted/criticized/slandered (should I go on?). Why is it different because it happens to be a shelter? I respect the work that good shelters do. But than again here we go trying to separate the good and bad. When it's a breeder and the descriptors are used the animal welfare groups don't like the descriptors. Good, reputable, honorable, quality should I continue. If you use a descriptor, you must also qualify that with, takes dogs back, gives a warranty, health checks. Get the picture. The intent of the article is not to bash shelters, if that is what you read, please read the article again. This time step back and read it objectively.*

*It is time for all individuals who care about dogs to do the right thing. It is time to put away your personal biases. It is time to put away your personal preferences about how YOU would raise dogs. It is time to do what is RIGHT and just. It is time that people stop viewing dogs as beings that we (as owners) are servants for. It's cute to use, dog mom, fur kids and the rest, but REALITY is that these are DOGS. They have 4-legs and are NOT human beings. Before you criticize me for being unfeeling and a dog hater, I use the same affectionate terms with my dogs, but I am a realist and know that they are still dogs.*

*Dogs do not require maternity wards with super sterile environments to whelp puppies. Have you ever seen a dog clean itself? Have you ever seen a dog eat the puppy sack after a puppy has been whelped (born). While some of you are chocking down bile from that visual, note that dogs are not children. They can do, what to you are disgusting things, but are natural and normal for them. While you may not agree, it is reality.*

*What is right is to view dogs as dogs. Dogs are different from humans. This is reality. To do what is just you must take reality and apply it. A dog being kept in a kennel, with food, water and a shelter is not abuse or neglect. A dog dish that is empty does not always mean that the dog was not fed. The bowl just happened to be empty when you saw it. A dog that is thin does not always indicate that it is sick, or hasn't been fed. Sometimes a dog is just thin. Before anyone condemns the other side of an issue, you should walk in their shoes or at least be open to hear what they have to say. Reality is that you will read this and choose not to believe it. That is unjust.*



## Dog Federation of Wisconsin Membership Renewal for 2009

Please note that **club members must now name 2 delegates** that have regular email access. These delegates will be responsible for ensuring that your club members are notified when a legislative matter arises that needs an immediate response.

Individual Voting Membership \$25.00		Individual Non-Voting Membership \$15.00	
<b>Club or Organization Memberships:</b>			
<b>25 and fewer members</b> 2 votes <b>\$40.00</b>	<b>26-50 members</b> 2 votes <b>\$50.00</b>	<b>51-99 members</b> 2 votes <b>\$75.00</b>	<b>100 or more members</b> 2 votes <b>\$100.00</b>

**Type I – DELEGATE MEMBER.** Open to all Kennel Clubs, Specialty Clubs, Obedience Clubs, Humane Societies and independent dog fancier organizations, which support the objectives of the Federation. Delegates of the above organizations shall be ascertained on each January 1st.

**Type II – INDIVIDUAL MEMBER.** Open to all individuals who support the objectives of the Federation.

**Types I and II memberships will be voting memberships.**

**Type III – ASSOCIATE MEMBER.** Non-voting membership open to all individuals who support the objectives of the Federation

**Type IV – BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP MEMBER.** Open to all professional or commercial organizations who wish to support the Federation objectives. This is a non-voting membership. There are two sponsorship fee schedules. For \$100.00 per year your business will be listed as a supporter of DFOW on the official DFOW website. For \$250.00 per year there will be a link on the official DFOW website to your company. The Business Sponsorship is subject to DFOW board approval.

Organization Member Information	Individual (or Delegate #1) Information
Organization Name - Contact Person	Name
Address	Address
City State Zip	City State Zip
Telephone	Telephone
Email	Email
<b>Number of Club Members</b>	*Talents you could offer to DFOW:
<b>Delegate 2 Name:</b>	<b>Alternate Delegate Name:</b>
Address	Address
City State Zip	City State Zip
Telephone	Telephone
Email	Email
*Talents you could offer to DFOW:	*Talents you could offer to DFOW:

\*Talents include writing ability, insurance or legal knowledge, lobbyist experience, research capabilities, fund raising experience, or any other talent that would be beneficial in helping DFOW preserve your right to own animals.

Please send this form, along with membership renewal check made out to DFOW by January 1, 2009 to **Wendy Biewer, DFOW Treasurer, W825 Froelich Road, Sullivan, WI 53178**

## Local Community Legislative News

### Alert—City of New Berlin:

<http://www.newberlin.org/display/displayFile.asp?docid=931&filename=/scag090202.pdf>

#### NEW BERLIN SAFETY COMMISSION (Partial AGENDA)

Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 6:30 pm

New Berlin Public Safety Building

16300 W. National Ave.

Old Business:

01 08 09 Proposed changes to the City of New Berlin Municipal Code pertaining to vicious dogs 152-10 G. (1) - (4) to include prohibitions against owning specific breeds of dogs.

**Residents of New Berlin need to attend this meeting. Even if you are not given an opportunity to speak, you should still attend.**

**Remember to dress appropriately and if given the opportunity to speak, speak calmly.**

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**City of Oshkosh: Good news according to news sources—no BSL or MSN, but they still need to be watched as they are revisiting their existing animal laws—**

<http://www.postcrescent.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009901220374>

What was particularly refreshing in this article was the comment made by the Oshkosh Area Humane Society executive director Joni Gieger "*The more research we did it just seems as though it doesn't really work*". That the Oshkosh Area Humane Society actually took the time to research MSN after they had initially stated that they were for it is perhaps a light at the end of the tunnel?.....

The Appleton Post-crescent latest editorial suggests that veterinarians, groomers and kennels should demand proof of registration....

<http://www.postcrescent.com:80/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009901270339>

There are still problems in the Oshkosh area if this is the mindset of the people in that area.

#### What DFOW can do for your club and members:

**Provide a speaker to address your club to explain the animal rights agenda and how it effects all pet owners.**

**Provide materials that could be used to educate politicians.**

**Provide support, testimony and materials to help in local community matters.**

**Arrange seminars on how to correctly deal with public officials.**

**Provide details on how to make your community "pet friendly".**



**Dog Federation of Wisconsin**  
**742 S. Indiana Ave.**  
**West Bend, WI 53095**  
*www.dfow.org*  
*We own dogs and we vote!*

**DFOW 2009 Legislation Day in Madison**  
**Wednesday May 13, 2009**

**Location: Best Western Inn on the Park Hotel, 22 S Carroll St., Madison, WI 608-257-8811**  
 (across from the capitol) — room will be announced when directions are sent  
**Valet Parking at the hotel—\$1.00 per hour** (don't risk parking tickets), please car pool.

**Day's Schedule:**

- 9:30 AM** Registration, coffee and rolls.
- 10:00 AM** Welcome and introductions—Ms. Joy Brand  
 Review schedule and logistics for the day  
 Distribute legislative issue packets
- 10:30 AM** Special guests State Representative Don Friske (R-Merrill), State Representative Mark Radcliffe (D-Black River Falls), and former assembly candidate Randy Melchert.
- \*Luncheon Speaker** Ms. Kim Brown Pokorny, Executive Director Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
- 1:30 PM** Depart for State Capitol—distribute 132 informational packets
- 1:35 PM** Photo session—State Capitol Rotunda
- 1:45-3:00 PM** Visit Legislative Offices
- 3:00 PM** Depart Capitol and return to the Hotel
- 3:15-3:45 PM** Wrap up session
- 3:45 PM** Thank you and adjourn

*\*Lunch will be provided by DFOW, but we will be asking for donations to help subsidize the cost.*

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• Please email Madison @ dfow . org (remove the spaces) if you are willing to devote a day to helping us  
 • create a good working relationship with our elected officials. We need the reservation form below filled out in  
 • detail. If you prefer, you may mail the registration form to the DFOW street address shown above.

• Names of people attending (so that we can make up name tags) : \_\_\_\_\_  
 • \_\_\_\_\_

• If you are representing a club, please list the name of the club and the area of WI that you are from:  
 • \_\_\_\_\_

• Contact Information for person submitting the reservation: Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 • Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

• It is important that we have a large contingent attend. After you have reserved your spot we will email you  
 • information regarding directions and parking facilities. Please send reservations in by April 30, 2009.

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