



Meeting
June 24, 2009 at Gander Mountain in Germantown.
6:30 PM Board meeting, 7:00 PM General
Membership meeting.

Welcome to the June 2009 edition of the DFOW Newsletter.

Where did the last 4 months go? I could claim that the last four months are a blur or I had amnesia, but unfortunately, I do remember what transpired and it has been a very busy period.

Currently the breeder regulation bills we have been advising would happen did. AB-250 and SB-208 were introduced. These two bills currently, are sister bills as they are exactly alike. Normally when they are introduced in this way, they are trying to cut down on the length of time it will take to go through the legislature. It allows them to be worked in both houses at the

same time; if the committees in both houses agree to have a joint public hearing, they will do so.

May 13th, DFOW held its very first legislative lobby day. I was very pleased by the number of members that turned out to support us. There were many questions of our speakers and of our lobbyist. It was as promised an educational day for those in attendance.

DFOW also had a legislative briefing inside the capitol. A video of our briefing can be found on Wisconsin Eye. The legislators, staff and interested parties were invited to hear DFOW's concerns with breeder regulation and ask questions of us.



Representative Jeff Smith at our legislative briefing.

Currently DFOW is working on a membership drive. The "Get 33" project is now underway. I had asked AKC if they would forward a letter on DFOW's behalf to all the AKC clubs in the state of Wisconsin. AKC was very accommodating and sent out an email letter on our behalf to encourage those clubs in the state of Wisconsin that do not currently belong to DFOW to join us.

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

I know that we are in the high season of dog shows, training and vacations. After the budget is signed by the Governor, the legislators will start working on the meat (so to speak) of their work. We will need individuals to attend the public hearing(s) in Madison when SB-208 and AB-250 are scheduled. Can you let tracey@dfow.org or joy@dfow.org know if you would be willing to attend? Normally hearings do not have a long lead time before announcement and when we need to attend.

Having a listing of those to contact before the hearings will cut down on frantic phone calls and emails with less than 48 hour notice. We anticipate the hearings will be held in the next 30-60 days.

I would like to personally thank all of the members and non-members that attended our legislative day in Madison; our DFWO corporate sponsors were even represented. You are the reason we work so hard. I have heard from many of those that came and I know you felt the day was worth taking off from your daily routines. I read the comments that were left from one of the sessions and we implemented one of the projects immediately.

Please feel free to contact us with your concerns and comments.

Stay tuned,

*Joy Brand
President*

Photo's of our legislation day—more on page 6



*All photos by Melody Carranza
Official DFWO photographer*

With this legislative session that will not end until 2010, every hobbyist in the State of Wisconsin must come together.

Just because your breed is one that may only average 5 puppies in a litter, there are many other responsible caring breeders that might have 10-15 puppies in a litter. Depending on time/circumstance, some of these breeders who whelp large litters may have 3-4 litters in one year and then not have a litter for multiple years. There are also those that have decided that multiple breeds of dog are what they prefer—either because of specific venues open to a specific group, or just because they like something about each breed's inherent type.

As long as puppies are being raised in a healthy environment and are happy, as long as breeders do whatever genetic testing is available for their particular breed, as long as breeders make their decision to breed based on research; No one should point fingers and claim "that person is a puppy mill or back yard breeder". Just because you have specific breeding requirements for your dogs, always remember that ALL BREEDS ARE NOT THE SAME.

In any case, these caring breeders are not in the business of raising puppies for sale to the general public as their livelihood; they raise puppies as a part of their hobby—to carry on their bloodlines. The AB-250/SB-208 bill authors have stated on numerous occasions that they are **commercial breeder licensing bills**. Why then are they targeting those that are the best source for a pure bred dog with a compliance point of 25 dogs sold? You cannot make a decent living selling even 50 dogs a year. Hobbyists ARE NOT COMMERCIAL ENTITIES. Most raise their puppies in their home. Their home is not open to the general public so why should it be open to government officials and why should they have to waive their fourth and fifth constitutional rights in order to comply with an unreasonable law that's number has no basis and is in fact arbitrarily chosen by non-dog experts?

Also of great concern is the lack of a false accusation clause. How many of you have neighbors that are difficult to deal with? If you don't you are very lucky and remember, that could change if someone new moves next door. The lack of a false accusation clause opens up the door for legal harassment. If you think this can't happen to you, please reconsider. Currently a SE WI hobby breeder has been targeted by a neighbor. This WI resident will be forced to give up all but two of her dogs if her hobby permit is not renewed by her local municipality. Even though there are NO RECORDS OF COMPLAINT against the hobbyist, small town politics are playing a hand in this situation. This is one small area of WI, what will happen on the State level if this bill should pass in its current form? Expect animal rights sympathizers to phone in anonymous complaints to local law enforcement agencies and that will be the start of legal harassment and it will cost you thousands of dollars in attorney fees to fight.

Our job as hobbyists is to protect the future of our sport. This not only means taking the time to educate the general public about the opportunities open to pure bred dogs and encourage participation in events, it also means that you must take the time to educate your elected representatives. Thankfully, the majority of politicians will listen to hobbyists if the hobbyist explains calmly what it is that they do, how they promote the sport of pure bred dogs, and how they encourage people to be responsible dog owners.

Dog owners in the State of Wisconsin must band together and create a united front. We encourage DFOW members to support ALL ANIMAL CONCERNS in the State by contacting their elected officials if burdensome legislation is introduced that will negatively affect those animal concerns.

Encourage your club, fellow fanciers and friends to join DFOW.

Originally published in Bloodlines.
An Obituary for Words
By Cindy Cooke, Legislative Specialist

In 2007, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People staged a symbolic ban on a particularly noxious racial epithet, now referred to as the "N-word." Of course, you can't really ban a word. In fact, an attempt to ban something often backfires, particularly in the United States where we don't like people censoring our speech. So I'm not going to tell you not to say "puppy mill." I'm going to give you some very good reasons for not using that phrase.

I speak to a lot of dog clubs and frequently hear dog breeders supporting so-called "anti-puppy mill" laws. When I ask these people to define "puppy mill," invariably the definitions given include:

People who "overbreed" their dogs.

People who don't take care of their dogs.

People who have too many dogs.

People who breed dogs "just for money."

People who don't take health issues into account when breeding their dogs.

Let's look at these definitions in turn. What is "overbreeding?" In the wild, most canids can only reproduce once a year. Most domestic dogs can have two litters a year. When I first became a dog breeder, it was almost a religious belief that no female dog should be bred more than once a year. We were told that it was important to "rest" the uterus between litters. Today, however, thanks to advances in veterinary medicine, we know that an empty uterus is actually damaged by the elevated progesterone levels that occur in each heat cycle, whether the dog is pregnant or not. Veterinary reproduction specialists recommend that dogs be bred on their second or third heat cycle, that we do more back-to-back breedings, and that we spay the dogs at around age 6.

The "overbreeding" argument also treats reproduction as something that female dogs wouldn't do if they had a choice. Dogs aren't people--female dogs actually want to be bred when they're in heat, and, with few exceptions, enjoy raising their puppies. It's not an unwelcome event for dogs.

People who don't take care of their dogs are already guilty of a crime in all 50 states. There is nowhere in the United States where it is legal to neglect or abuse dogs. Sadly, a small minority of all dog breeders--commercial, home and hobby--commit neglect and abuse. Some of these do so out of ignorance, some out of laziness, and some out of meanness. All are ALREADY breaking the law. It just needs to be enforced.

One of our biggest problems now is that animal radicals insist that every dog be raised like a hot house flower. One bill proposed this year would have required every kennel to be air conditioned. Many owners of working dogs prefer that their dogs be acclimated to hot weather so that they can work when the temperature goes up. Likewise, sled dogs in the north often sleep outdoors in the snow. Dogs can live and thrive in a wide range of environments. The arctic circle, the jungles of Africa, and the deserts of Arabia have all produced breeds of dogs that can live happily in conditions that might not suit all dogs. It is important that we not let activists redefine the needs of dogs to the extent that we are forced to provide a brass bed and a down pillow for every animal in the kennel!

What is "too many dogs?" Most of our breeds were developed by wealthy people who kept large numbers of dogs. Hound breeders traditionally kept good-sized packs, and early show breeders did as well. Now that our sport includes more mainstream people--people with jobs or people who need jobs--it's hard for many of us to keep large numbers of dogs. There is no inherent link between numbers of dogs and neglect. People who have the resources to keep big kennels provide a service

for all of us, particularly if they maintain a good number of useful stud dogs.

Breeding dogs is expensive, and getting more so daily. It's just plain silly to pretend that none of us needs the money generated by puppy sales and stud services. Without that income, the vast majority of middle class breeders could not afford this sport. When our sport was solely in the hands of rich people, it was the norm to sneer at people in "trade," and part of that attitude was handed down to us with the culture of our sport. However, today, the majority of us in the sport are "in trade," in the sense that we have to work to support ourselves. Our dogs must, at least in part, support themselves or most of us would have to get out of the game.

We have among us a small but vociferous group of people who think that breeders only care about producing great hunting or show dogs, and nothing about health. In fact, I've never met a breeder who wasn't concerned about the health of his dogs and the health of his breed. Most health problems in dogs don't have simple solutions, so it is only natural that breeders are often going to disagree about how to address health problems. When there's no right answer to a question, then breeders who follow a different path than you might choose are not necessarily wrong or unconcerned. I know that many believe that commercial breeders don't care about health, but the fact is that their professional organizations provide some of the most sophisticated health seminars in the country for their breeders.

Twenty years ago, animal activists created the phrase "puppy mill." Back then, it was only applied to commercial breeders, and then only to those who were breaking the law by neglecting their dogs. In a futile attempt to placate activists, many hobby breeders adopted the term "puppy mill" and used it to separate "them" from "us." It was a mistake then, and it's rapidly becoming fatal today. Every one of these so-called "anti-puppy mill bills" has a definition that could easily include breeders of hunting and show dogs. Every time you use that phrase, you're contributing to the idea that dog breeders need to be regulated out of existence.

The message we need to send to America is that purebred dogs are good, not just because they have pedigrees, but because of their predictability, and that people should shop at least as carefully for a puppy as they do for a car. We don't need to help the animal radicals spread their message by using their favorite term: puppy mill.

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".

Pictorial of DFOW's first Legislative Day—held in Madison on May 13, 2009



Gary Goyke—DFOW Lobbyist



Ms. Kim Brown Pokorny

Our day started off at the Best Western Inn on the Park. Speakers included Steve Boe from State Representative Mark Radcliffe's office, Ms. Kim Brown Pokorny, Executive Director Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association, and former assembly candidate Randy Melchert.



After lunch, our legislative packets were handed out to attendees to distribute to legislators at the State Capitol.



Randy Melchert



Steve Boe



After lunch, we went across the street to the State Capitol to hold a briefing with legislators and legislative aides.

After the briefing, DFOW representatives distributed the legislative packets to legislators or their aides.



Representative Don Pridemore



Representative Jeff Smith



We thank Melody Carranza Photography, LLC (High-End Dogs) for capturing our day at the Capitol.

Dog Federation of Wisconsin, Inc.

Application for Club or Organization Membership – 2 delegates with email access are required

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 I membership will be a voting membership.

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.

1) Please provide the following information about your Club or Organization:

Name: _____ Number of Members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Fax: (____) _____

Website: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: (____) _____

2) Provide the following information about your Secretary or specific contact:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Fax: (____) _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

3) Who is your appointed delegate to the Dog Federation of WI (please list alternate delegate on back)?

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

4) Does your delegate have any interests that could be helpful to the DOG FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN, INC.?

<input type="checkbox"/> Article Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Lobbying	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Printing	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> DFOW Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer
<input type="checkbox"/> DFOW Booth	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking

5) Will your club accept email correspondence as a way to conduct DFOW business? Yes No

Please accept our application for membership/sponsorship in the Dog Federation of Wisconsin.

Signature: _____ Title: _____ Date: _____

This application must be submitted to the Board of Directors of the DOG FEDERATION OF WISCONSIN, INC. with the appropriate club/organization membership dues. The dues schedule is pro-rated according to membership. This membership fee is due annually by January 1st. If you join in the last two months of a year, you will not be subject to the next year's dues.

25 & fewer members:	\$40.00	Business Sponsorships:
26 - 50 members:	\$50.00	\$100.00 sponsorship - listed on the DFOW website
51 - 99 members:	\$75.00	\$250.00 sponsorship - link from the DFOW website
100+ members:	\$100.00	to your company website.

Make check payable to DFOW and mail to: Wendy Biewer, Treasurer, W825 Froelich Road, Sullivan, WI 53178