



Dog Federation of Wisconsin
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Informational Notice – 9/29/2009

Today, a long time respected breeder who breeds an occasional litter had a visit from her local planning commission. Apparently someone had reported this breeder for a possible zoning violation of having an unlicensed kennel.

This breeder is listed in a SE Wisconsin area kennel club breeder directory. Three other individuals that we know of who have been targeted this year are also listed in that directory.

As in our previous advisories, we suggest that you remain on your guard at all times. Be pleasant to any zoning inspectors that may appear at your door, just don't let them in your home. Make sure that your yard and home are in good upkeep so that you cannot be charged with some type of a local nuisance ordinance (i.e. noxious weeds).

Again, if you have not yet read "what to do when animal control comes knocking", please find this in our previous alerts. If you are in a community that has made you waive your constitutional rights in order to have a hobbyist/fancier permit, contact a lawyer and find out what rights you do have. If you do not know your local animal codes and zoning laws, you need to find them and read them yourself. Do not rely on a municipal clerk that may give you incorrect verbal information. You must have a hard copy of any local laws that can affect you.

We've observed what has been happening throughout the United States regarding harassment of small breeders. We cannot allow this to happen in our State. You must know your rights and your local codes and be prepared to stand up for yourself.

DFOW would like to know if you have had a visit by zoning, law enforcement, or animal control. Please let us know the date that you were visited. If you are listed on a website or breeder referral book, this information is very important to us as well. Please let us know what the complaint was based on and the complainant if named. We are going to start keeping track of these complaints by municipality. Additional information that will be needed is: Do you need a permit in your municipality for a fanciers/hobby license? Is there a pet limit in place? What is the name of the municipality and what county is it in? Please also include contact information so that DFOW can contact you for any specifics. Contact information will not be disclosed to anyone. If the complaint was proven to be unfounded, please let us know the details and the municipal contact and department that you dealt with.

This is also a good time to remind Wisconsin citizens that they should be watching their local government agendas. If any municipalities are considering changing their local animal codes, be sure to contact DFOW immediately.