



Dog Federation of Wisconsin
742 S. Indiana Ave.
West Bend, WI 53095
Doglaw@dfow.net

City of Mequon—Alert— PLEASE ATTEND MEETING ON MAY 11TH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE MEETING TO CONSIDER ELIMINATION OF THEIR FANCIER PERMITS at:

Mequon City Hall, South Conference Room on May 11, 2010 at 6:30 pm.
City Hall is located at 11333 N. Cedarburg Road, Mequon, WI 53092

The subject is being brought up due to what we believe is a neighborhood dispute in the Huntington Park subdivision. Currently in Mequon, you may obtain a fancier's permit in order to have no more than 3 dogs and 3 cats on 2 acres of land or less, or, 5 dogs and 5 cats on more than 2 acres of land. If you own more than 5 dogs, you need to obtain a kennel license. The committee has suggested eliminating the fancier permit and instead would require anyone with more than 5 dogs to get a kennel license.

The problem is that with a kennel permit, you would need to get a conditional use permit. From City of Mequon's existing ordinance: *"Whenever a kennel creates a nuisance or has a substantial adverse effect upon the property value or reasonable enjoyment of surrounding properties the planning commission, may; after holding a public hearing, rescind their original approval and require the dog owners to reduce the number of dogs on their property or discontinue the kennel operation."*

The terminology above would, in our opinion, lead to even more neighborhood disputes. What many government officials do not realize is that many fanciers have MORE than 5 dogs; primarily housed in their home. When there is an option of a kennel license, communities automatically assume that the dogs will be kept in kennel runs and that is why there is terminology regarding conditional use permits within their ordinances. Typically these ordinances provide undue hardship to responsible fanciers who keep their pets in their home.

If there are problems in the City of Mequon regarding dogs, it is suggested that they enforce existing animal nuisance codes. Increase the penalties if warranted. Responsible pet owners do not allow their animals to be a nuisance and do not object to substantial fines for those that are irresponsible pet owners.

State of Wisconsin Chapter 174.053 provides for a multi-dog license. "Kennel" licenses are no longer referenced.

The Department of Public Welfare committee members are:

Dale Mayr, Chairman dmayr@ci.mequon.wi.us

John Wirth, jwirth@ci.mequon.wi.us

Mark Seider, mseider@ci.mequon.wi.us

Diane Kowalchuk (Staff Liaison) dkowalchuk@ci.mequon.wi.us (262) 236-2912

Note: Mark Seider is new to the committee, beginning with the May meeting. Due to standard rotation, he replaced Ken Zganjar (kzganjar@ci.mequon.wi.us)

Information that reaches Diane Kowalchuk prior to Friday will be included in the packet of information provided for the meeting next Tuesday. Diane is located at the Mequon City Hall (address above). Her official title is Deputy City Clerk.

Remember to be polite and respectful when communicating with local government representatives.