



**ABOUT THE
ENDANGERED
BREEDS
ASSOCIATION**

(EBA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1980 for the purpose of preserving the American Pit Bull Terrier. Our goals are public education, media monitoring, legislative lobbying, and legal intervention to protect responsible owners from breed-specific legislation and unfair harassment by public offi-

cials or agencies. We oppose animal abuse or any illegal activities with animals. Membership is \$10-single \$15-family per year with members receiving four newsletters a year. Canadian and overseas members please send US Dollars money orders only. All memberships expire Dec. 31 of each year.

EBA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!)

Name (s) _____ Occupation _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____
 Membership type: New _____ Renew _____ Single _____ Family _____

Information packet available (check one) _____ CD for computer _____ Printed material

Please make check or money order payable to the Endangered Breeds Association and mail to:
 Joan Morrison, Route 1, Box 71, Gore, OK 74435

ENDANGERED BREEDS ASSOCIATION

Jean Carpenter, secretary
 P.O. Box 879
 Walker, LA 70785

THE ENDANGERED BREEDS ASSOCIATION

Bulldog Banter



NUMBER 67 • OCTOBER 2004

EBA Board Meets in Joliette, Ill.

The meeting was called to order at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004, prior to the second day of the annual American Dog Breeders Association Nationals. Secretary Jean Carpenter presided. President Colleen Hill was on nurse duty in Louisiana because of Hurricane Ivan and could not leave. Vice president Gary Hammonds of Texas was unable to attend.

Board members present were Jean Carpenter, Doris Hutson, Joel Halverson, Harry George, Kim Krohn, Kate Greenwood and Joan Morrison. A quorum was present. Matters discussed included:

Should EBA be reorganized:

Endangered Breeds Association was founded in 1980 by Richard Stratton and Ralph Greenwood. Stratton served as president several years, then George Schiller became president. Jean Carpenter became president after Schiller, and Colleen Hill is the current president.

EBA was incorporated as a not-for-profit entity Aug. 31, 1989, through corporate laws of Oklahoma. Incorporating officers of the board were George Schiller, president; Philip Sylvester, vice president; Linda Emmert, secretary; Peter Albrecht, corresponding secretary; and Joan Morrison, treasurer.

Kate Greenwood told those attending the meeting, that on behalf of ADBA, she stands behind the board of directors of Endangered Breeds Association 100 percent. She expressed complete confidence in the board and its decisions. All board members and officers of EBA serve on a voluntary basis with no compensation, and do a good job, she said. There may be areas that can be improved upon, and the board will address those areas.

Help request from Canada: It was reported to the board that in 2001, a

Canadian individual asked for help with proposed breed specific legislation. The Canadian individual was not happy with the response she received. Jean Carpenter told her she did not know how the government worked in Canada, but she would send information that should be helpful. The information was sent.

Canadians allegedly disagree with holding out \$1 per dog from show receipts: Kate Greenwood explained that EBA does not hold out the \$1 per dog — 50 cents from each dollar comes from the sponsoring club holding the show and ADBSI contributes 50 cents. When the clubs write the check to EBA, they write it for \$1 per dog but do not send ADBA the 50 cents per dog that would have been sent.

The notation on EBA's membership form that Canadians and people from other foreign countries must send American funds is a banking requirement. EBA must pay certain fees if a check is written on a Canadian bank to get that check cashed. That is why American fund money orders are requested. It is a banking matter.

EBA donations to organizations: EBA sends funds directly to attorneys. EBA sent a donation to the rescue dogs working the World Trade Center disaster of Sept. 11. EBA sent a donation to a Louisiana veterinarian who provided a free rabies clinic — EBA was given recognition for providing funding for the vaccine. Two canine defense funds have received donations and those organizations have provided EBA with a full accounting of how the funds were spent, complete with receipts.

Regional representation: EBA's board of directors is regional — Sharon Sunday and Joel Halverson on the West Coast; Kate and Renee Greenwood in the West; JoAnn LeBlanc and Gary Hammonds in the Southwest; Joan Morrison and Kim Krohn

in the Central region; Colleen Hill, Jean Carpenter and Doris Hutson in the South; and Harry George in the Northeast. The board reports at meetings during the ADBA Annual Convention and ADBA Nationals. The board is in contact via phone and the Internet as needed — sometimes on a daily basis. Our Web site has an e-mail dedicated to EBA and its messages go to individual board members. Those board members either answer the message themselves or pass it along to a board member in the region where the problem is.

Appointing Ed Hinkle as operations director: EBA does not have an operations director. Hinkle was nominated for a board position in the last (2003) election. He received 9 votes and was not elected. Board members elected were Sharon Sundy and Harry George. Joan Morrison was named a lifetime board member to serve as treasurer.

Newsletters: All members of EBA receive quarterly newsletters. Even those whose memberships have expired Dec. 31 receive the next newsletter of the new year with their expiration date highlighted on their mail label. Each time a newsletter is mailed, EBA receives several back through returned mail service. The person has moved and left no forwarding address.

Information in the newsletter is aimed at helping owners become responsible dog owners. It is the first listing in EBA's by-laws that we stress and promote the responsible ownership of dogs.

The American Kennel Club Legislative Action report is valuable information for any person who owns a breed of dog singled out in breed specific legislation.

Any person who is a member of EBA can send information to be published in

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ALL MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRE DEC. 31 UNLESS MULTI-YEARS ARE PAID.



Board

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the Banter (newsletter). At this time, many members send photos of their dogs for publication, and these are printed as space is available. No sales will be listed in the Banter.

In some years there only have been three newsletters. Please remember that everyone works on a voluntary basis — all board members have jobs and families that also must be attended to.

The Bulldog Banter is available on EBA's Web site before it is mailed. Banters from all years since the Web site was created are available for download on the Web site.

An audit of EBA books: In the 20 years Joan Morrison has been treasurer, there never has been a request for an audit. The finances of EBA always have been open to the board or any member and always will be. At the Sept. 19 meeting, there were checks and receipts for the years 2000 through 2004. Board members were advised the records could be examined. No board member or any other person at the meeting chose to examine the records. EBA is not a business. We do not receive large donations from individuals. The books are a very simple process — X amount comes in, X amount goes out, and how the money is spent is revealed in the annual financial report. This financial report is in the Banter and on the Web site. It is simple, fifth-grade math!

Auditors charge a minimum of \$50 per hour to audit books. The fee to audit EBA books since the early 1980s, when Joan Morrison became treasurer, would be astronomical. EBA funds are better spent fighting bsl when the books can be "audited" by any board member at any time.

Responses to calls for help: Please see the article "Help! They're after my bulldogs!" elsewhere in the Banter.

Expenditures without the vote of the board: No member of EBA can spend any amount of money without the full approval of the board. The board does not vote on the day-to-day operational expenses of EBA, such as printing and mailing the newsletter

and other mailings; repair or upgrade of existing equipment or the purchase of new equipment; reimbursement for phone or travel expenses for board members dealing with bsl. These expenses are reported in the annual financial report and are paid only with receipts.

Term lengths for board officers: Officers of the board serve until they request to step down or be replaced. They cannot name the board at their discretion. The remainder of the board, as well as officers, are up for re-election annually on a staggered basis (meaning three are voted upon each year). Nominations for board members are noted in the October Banter of each year. All nominees are due by Nov. 15. Voting is completed by Dec. 31. In some years there have been no nominations and the board members serving were automatically re-elected.

Contacting EBA: President Colleen Hill had two phone lines coming into her home — one dedicated to EBA. The cost was becoming too much. She had that line removed and all calls now come to her home phone. Bell South was to have placed a recording on the line telling what the new number was. They did not. That matter has been taken care of.

Several people attending the board meeting addressed the board and said they felt the issues brought up were done so in poor timing and should have been addressed directly to the board before any other person. All expressed confidence in EBA and its board. Those speaking included Dave Wolf and Calvin Morrison.

In other business:

- Judges for the annual EBA show will be chosen first from those who are EBA board members. There can be more than one EBA show per year.

- The board voted to provide plastic name tags for all board members. Board members are to wear the tags at shows they attend and be available to answer questions and concerns.

- The board voted to provide business cards for board members to distribute at

shows they attend.

- A report on the Georgia bsl case was tabled.

- Board member Harry George gave an update on the Ohio case. The case still is in litigation and the board will make further decisions after hearings in the case which are set have been litigated.

- The Denver case was discussed. The board has made several requests for an update on Denver and the resulting cases. The board voted to not provide any more funding to Denver until an update had been provided. After an update, the matter will be considered again.

- Clubs winning the drawing for the 100 Club award are to provide EBA with the name of the individual who will attend the ADBA Convention by Dec. 1. The board voted to place a \$500 cap on airfare for the individual attending the convention.

- Various fund raising methods were discussed. The matter was tabled and there was no vote.

- The board discussed the need for more EBA representatives. EBA reps must be a member of EBA for at least one year. Anyone nominating a person for EBA must check with that individual and make sure they want to take on the responsibility. Nominations must include a brief resume telling a little background about the person nominated.

Ed Hinkle was asked to be an EBA representative. He took an application which has not been returned to the board.

- Gary Hammonds' recently published book was discussed. The board voted the historical content of the book in no way damages EBA.

- Board members Doris Hutson, Joel Halverson and JoAnn LeBlanc were nominated for a new term.

- Kate Greenwood requested treasurer Joan Morrison write thank-you notes to individuals making donations to EBA. Thank-you notes are written in instances where EBA knows of a donation. ADBSI will provide more detailed information when sending show checks to EBA, with donations indicated.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



BULLDOG BANTER
Colleen Hill,
Editor
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The Bulldog Banter welcomes articles, news clippings, letters and other comments from its readers. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions as needed. All letters for publication must be signed.

Material in the Bulldog Banter may be reproduced, but please credit the Bulldog Banter as the source.

To subscribe to the Bulldog Banter, please see the EBA Membership application on the back page.

ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

Endangered Breeds Association
www.endangeredbreedsassociation.org

American Kennel Club
www.akc.org

www.animallaw.com

www.responsiblepetowners.org

WE WANT TO MEET YOUR PET!

E-mail your photograph to vickyholland@mac.com and we will print it in Bulldog Banter. Photographs are printed as space allows. Include caption. NO SALES.

EBA reps needed

The board of directors of Endangered Breeds Association would like to see more people apply for the position of EBA representative.

This person, when approved by the board of directors, shall be responsible for keeping up with breed specific legislation as it is proposed in their area. This person will make reports to the board and coordinate efforts with dog owners in their area to present a united front against the proposals.

In nominating an individual for this position, please check with them and be sure they are willing to take on this task. Please provide a brief resume about the person (who they are, their qualifications, their abilities). Representatives must be a member of EBA for at least one year prior to nomination as an EBA rep.

Send nominations to EBA Secretary Jean

Carpenter, P.O. Box 1148, Albany, LA 70711.

Nominations due

It's time to nominate persons who have been members of Endangered Breeds Association in good standing for positions on the board of directors.

This year, board members Joel Halverson, JoAnn LeBlanc and Doris Hutson are up for re-election. All three were nominated at the Sept. 19, 2004, EBA board meeting in Joliet, Ill.

Nominations are due to EBA, P.O. Box 879, Walker, La. 70785; or by e-mail to Jean Carpenter at ebajeanc@aol.com by Nov. 15, 2004. The person to be nominated must be a member in good standing, with paid up dues, in EBA.

Ballots will be included in the December Banter, and voting should be completed by Dec. 31.

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Pet Corner



Two-year-old Louisa Zepeda poses with her dog, 4-year-old Chula, during a vacation in San Antonio. This photograph was sent in by John and Nina Zepeda of Cleveland, Texas, and Trinity Valley Pit Bull Club.

Jeffery, at right, is Paula C.'s service dog. They live in Dodge City, Kan.

Help!

Continued from Page 3

method to deal with a dangerous dog before there is an incident. Just be helpful, helpful, helpful. IF YOU DO THEIR WORK FOR THEM, they are more likely to listen to you. It would be nice if you could head it off at the pass, so to speak.

You must try to find other dog owners who are registered to vote and willing to speak to their councilmen and convince them that a generic vicious dog law would be better for the community. You might try asking veterinarians and pet supply stores if you can put flyers in their places of business. Appeal to all pet owners that their pet might be next if you don't fight this now. Put a phone number on there where people can contact you. And while you're at it, try to get the veterinarians in your corner. If

there is a prominent citizen who owns a large dog, try to get them on your side. And if you have a non-dog owning neighbor who is willing to complain because his yard is full of dog poop from everyone else's dog, that is super!

Above all, dress nicely and ask hot-headed owners to stay home.

Now, the ball is in the people from Dodge City's court. EBA has done its part in providing them with exceptional information.

In the case of the complaints Hinkle was reporting, the board of EBA would be willing to bet they received similar information. EBA does not do the work for you! We provide the necessary information and avenues for you to help yourself. We often advise you to speak with an attorney. If the legislation has been passed and things look

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bad, often legal measures are the only resource.

If your dogs have been taken unjustly, legal recourse is the only answer. EBA WILL NOT come get your dogs out of confiscation for you. You will need an attorney. If the attorney feels you have been unjustly accused — you have not broken any existing dog laws in your town and your dogs were taken just because of their breed — you can apply to EBA for financial help. The funds will go only to the attorney. In some instances, funds have been sent to established defense funds and EBA is provided an accounting of how EBA funds were spent - with receipts.

If you have been involved in a felony situation with your dog and broken existing laws concerning animal welfare, EBA cannot help you.



Help! They're after my bulldogs!

Let's examine what happens when someone contacts EBA — either through the e-mail services of our Web site or through an individual board member by phone.

Nine times out of 10, the person calling or seeking help is not a member of EBA. While it is not a requirement that you be a member of EBA to obtain help from our organization, it would be nice if you would join.

Then, the call goes something like this: "My town is going to ban my bulldogs! There is supposed to be a city council meeting! When can you be here!"

In the majority of the instances, EBA board members do not go to your city council meeting and talk for you. City councils take a very dim view of someone who lives outside their town coming in and trying to tell them what they can or cannot do.

This is where YOU, as a RESPONSIBLE, bulldog owner, should be involved. EBA's role is to provide you with the necessary information to present your case in a sane, responsible way when that city council meeting is held.

Sample letters are available on EBA's Web site. All you have to do is follow the directions and the letter will be printed out for you — you don't even have to think!

At this point, the next information from the person seeking help is: "I called them at EBA and they didn't give me any help at all!"

Translation: They told me it was a lot of hard work and I'm not willing to do that.

This past week, board member Kim Krohn of Missouri, helped an individual in Kansas. Kansas has some of the worst bsl in the nation. But Krohn's instructions to the people in Dodge City, KS, could be applied to any city in the country.

Her reply was:

It's very important that you are extra polite to your city council since they are holding ALL of the cards! Everything will have to be "yes sir, no sir, three bags full, sir."

So, make sure you are registered to vote. If you aren't registered to vote, please do it today. Are you a resident of Dodge City? If you are not, some of this won't apply, so

you'll need to find some dog-owning residents who can help. City councilmen are interested in the people who vote for them and pay their salary. The next thing you should do is go to the Dodge City Web site and become familiar with the city government — the mayor, the council, etc., and how things are organized. Review all animal ordinances — leash laws, any general animal laws, and any zoning and nuisance laws as they relate to animals. If Dodge City doesn't post their ordinances on their Web site, go to the City Clerk's office at City Hall and request copies of the ordinances. They are allowed to charge you for the copies but under most "sunshine laws" they can only charge you a "reasonable amount" (usually no more than \$1 per page).

You don't say what breeds are being considered in the breed ban, or if it's a "restrictive ordinance" as opposed to an outright ban. You might consider going to the emergency rooms at the hospitals and ask if you can get a list of the breeds of dogs that have caused dog bites in the last year. If this information is helpful (as it was here in Blue Springs, Mo., since it was full of Labs and Cockers), use it to your advantage. If the information would not be helpful, lose it.

Request a meeting with your City Councilman if you are a resident. If you aren't a resident, find someone who is and tag along for moral support. The best time to counter this type of legislation is BEFORE the meeting. Don't wait until the meeting — START NOW.

Public hearings can be a nightmare, as that's when people stand up with pictures of disfigured children, copies of hospital bills, horror stories about neighborhood dogs, and old "Ann Landers" columns. Private meetings are better. Also, if Dodge City holds committee meetings or working business meetings prior to the full council meeting, try to attend those. Those are typically more informal and less combative. Find out from the City Clerk if you must request to be placed on the docket to speak at a committee meeting or full council meeting.

I would recommend that you join EBA - you will get a very good information packet from EBA. I would also recommend that

you contact the AKC's Legislation Department, e-mail is — we're all volunteers at EBA, but at AKC they have a paid staff that can act quickly.

Request a copy of the Dangerous Dog Packet, as it has copies of some excellent generic vicious dog laws. The information is free. At the appropriate time, Kortni in the AKC's Canine Legislation Department can send or fax a letter to the mayor or any of the Council.

Try to find out what's behind the city's proposal prior to meeting with your councilman. Most of the time problems with animals can be solved with laws that are already in place.

For example, if someone has a pit bull that is running loose, scaring people, and killing cats, point out politely to your councilman that this is a leash law violation. Lawrence, KS was talking about passing BSL a few years ago. A "pit bull" was running loose and killed a Yorkie that was being walked on lead. The Lawrence-Jayhawk Kennel Club pointed out that the pit bull owner had eight outstanding tickets for leash law violations, she had never kept a court date, and there was never a warrant issued for her arrest. Had the city acted earlier, the Yorkie would be alive and there would be no need to even consider a breed ban. This is the type of information that you need prior to meeting with your elected representatives if it's available.

When you meet with the city, skip any rhetoric about how nice, sweet, cute, friendly, or well-bred your dogs are. Trust me when I say that they don't care. Avoid talking about the dogs too much — it's best to take the approach, "I understand that you're concerned about the threat that dangerous dogs pose the town. As a parent (if you are one) and a responsible dog owner, I'm concerned, also, and would like to help. I'd like to see the current leash law enforced, etc." Act like you want to HELP them, not fight with them. Then, you should present the councilmen with copies of examples of generic dangerous dog laws that don't single out any particular breed. Tell them that you'd like to see the citizens protected from ALL dogs, not just certain breeds, and you'd like the city to have a

See HELP! on Page 2



Around the nation: *Legislation that affects you*

CALIFORNIA — La Mesa officials recently approved revisions to strengthen the city's vicious dog ordinance. While the revisions are not breed-specific, dogs deemed vicious under the new law are to be euthanized within five days. Owners may appeal the designation and exemptions may be provided if the dog was provoked or acting in self-defense.

- The Riverbank City Council unanimously approved an ordinance that establishes fines for owners of dogs and cats who do not clean up after their pets. Violators are subject to a \$50 fine for a first offense and a \$200 fine for each subsequent offense.

INDIANA — Officials in Fort Wayne recently approved an ordinance that establishes an animal exhibitors permit, which allows exhibitors to keep up to five unaltered dogs or cats for an annual \$150 fee. Local fanciers first brought the issue to city council members in 2003 after the city enacted an ordinance that limited residents to one intact animal. Neither Fort Wayne dog owners nor AKC had an opportunity for input prior to the passage of last year's ordinance.

IOWA — The Council Bluffs Kennel Club reports that city officials voted against a breed-specific dangerous dog ordinance. The Canine Legislation department sent a letter of opposition and materials to the mayor and city council. Thank you to all those who mobilized to oppose this measure. For additional information, contact Phyllis Gasper, Council Bluffs Kennel Club (sdgroom@aol.com).

- The newly formed Monticello Council for Responsible Pet Owners and Pet Safety reports that city officials have tabled a proposed breed-specific dangerous dog ordinance so they may study the issue further. AKC sent materials to local fanciers and a letter of opposition to the mayor and city council. For more information, contact Lisa Boysen, Monticello Council for Responsible Pet Owners and Pet Safety (badkitty80@hotmail.com).

KANSAS — Before AKC or local fanciers were aware, the Augusta City Council approved a breed-specific dangerous dog

ordinance that automatically classifies "pit bulls," American Staffordshire Terriers, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers as vicious dogs. Under the new law, vicious dogs must be registered with the city annually at a cost of \$100. Owners must also obtain \$100,000 in liability insurance. Concerned dog owners are lobbying local officials to replace the new law with a strict yet generic dangerous dog ordinance. AKC sent materials and a letter to the mayor and city council in support of this effort. For more information contact, Maria Ciski (mtciski@sbcglobal.net).

- Leavenworth City Commissioners continue to consider revisions to the city's dangerous dog ordinance, however, the proposed changes are not breed-specific. The Canine Legislation department sent a letter and materials opposing breed-specific legislation to city officials. AKC and local fanciers are monitoring the situation closely. For more information, contact Judith Goodin, Leavenworth Kennel Club (913-727-1966).

- In July, the Salina City Commission approved an ordinance that bans new "pit bulls" from the city and places tight restrictions on existing pit bulls. The new law requires owners to register their dogs with the city and obtain \$100,000 in liability insurance. Pit bulls must also be microchipped and wear an orange collar for identification. The AKC sent an opposition letter and materials to city officials and worked with local dog owners to oppose the measure.

KENTUCKY — Bowling Green City Commissioners have tabled a proposed animal control ordinance in order to study the issue further. The proposal included limiting residents to a total of six dogs or cats, a kennel license fee and increased licensing fees for intact animals. AKC sent a letter of opposition and materials to city officials and encourages local fanciers to do the same. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and we will keep you informed as the issue progresses.

MARYLAND — Members of the Prince George's County Council continue to con-

sider the repeal of the county's "pit bull" ban. A proposed ordinance would lift the ban and focus on a dog's behavior rather than its breed. A vote will likely come this fall. The Canine Legislation department sent a letter of support to county council members and encourages local fanciers to do the same. For additional information, contact Adrienne Lefkowitz, Maryland Dog Federation (901-693-2256 or euniverz@aol.com).

MASSACHUSETTS — The New Bedford City Council may soon consider a breed-specific dangerous dog ordinance. The Canine Legislation department sent a letter and materials to city officials and is working with local fanciers to oppose the measure. For more information, contact the Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners (jrembrandtseeley@aol.com).

MICHIGAN — The Michigan Association of Pure Bred Dog Owners and local fanciers are working with Benton Harbor officials to create a fair and effective dangerous dog law in lieu of a proposed breed-specific ordinance. AKC sent materials and a letter supporting their efforts to the mayor and city council. For additional information, contact the Dr. Al Stinson, Michigan Association of Pure Bred Dog Owners (LSFC2@aol.com).

MISSISSIPPI — Gulfport officials continue to consider changes to the city's animal control code including a differential licensing proposal that would increase costs for intact dogs. The Canine Legislation department sent a second letter opposing the measure in August. For more information, contact Linda Hoff, Singing River Kennel Club (beaucavs@pobox.com).

NEBRASKA — In July, the Omaha City Council unanimously approved new regulations for the city's rescue groups. Under the new rules, animal rescuers are limited to a total of eight animals, including their own pets, and groups are required to report microchip identification numbers to the humane society in a timely manner. The changes allow rescue groups to avoid inspections and license fee for foster animals in their care.

NEW JERSEY — The Borough of Manville has removed a provision limiting the number of pets residents may own from a proposed animal control ordinance. The measure still includes a provision for nuisance barking. Contact the New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs (<http://www.nj federationofdogclubs.org>) for additional information.

NEW MEXICO — Albuquerque fanciers continue to lobby against proposed changes to the city's animal control code that include \$150 intact animal and litter permits, mandatory microchipping, and a limit law. The measure is expected to go before the city council this fall. The Canine Legislation department is working closely with fanciers to oppose this ordinance. For more information, contact the Rio Grande Kennel Club (bedrckbouv@aol.com).

NEW YORK — Asm. Tonko's A6635 was sent to the governor in August. The bill establishes a dangerous dog advisory board and requires owners of dangerous dogs to notify the municipal clerk so that emergency personnel can be made aware of the dog's presence. A6635 also makes the owner of a dangerous dog that has attacked a person, companion animal or farm animal strictly liable for medical costs caused by the attack.

- Governor Pataki signed A8586 into law on July 20. The new law prohibits animal fighting and makes it a felony to breed, sell, or purchase any animal with the intent that the animal engage in fighting. Such an offense is punishable by a fine of up to \$25,000 and up to four years in jail.

NORTH CAROLINA — Doug Murray has informed EBA that beginning next month, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers patrolling the Westover Division will fill out a computerized form anytime they see a potentially dangerous dog. Animal Control, a bureau of the Police Department, will then investigate the dog to determine if it's properly secured and if its owner is abiding by the city's dangerous dog ordinance. According to the city ordinance, "dangerous means any animal whose behavior, temperament, size, or any combination thereof ...

constitutes a reasonable risk of injuring a human or animal or damaging personal or real property."

Since April, at least three Charlotte children have been seriously injured -- one of them killed -- in dog attacks, leading city officials to look for ways to better protect residents from vicious pets.

After the death, city officials considered a ban on pit bulls and other breeds known to be aggressive, but decided not to recommend banning particular breeds. They believe the existing dangerous dog laws, coupled with more effective enforcement, will address the problem.

Next month, city staffers will ask the council to consider reducing the number of animals that can be kept outside without a permit. Currently, Animal Control must issue a permit to anyone who wants to keep more than three animals outside their home; the bureau wants a permit required for more than two animals.

OHIO — In August, Columbus officials passed an animal cruelty ordinance that includes stipulations that dogs can not be left inside cars in weather warmer than 85 degrees and that shelter be provided for dogs left outdoors for eight or more hours per day. The ordinance also requires that animals be leashed when on public property.

TENNESSEE — Officials in Smyrna are studying a breed-specific dangerous dog law. The Canine Legislation department sent a statement of opposition to city officials opposing such laws and also mailed materials to local fanciers. For information, contact Responsible Animal Owners of Tennessee (raotinc@aol.com).

TEXAS — The El Paso City Council is considering an animal control ordinance that includes breeder permits and differential licensing for unaltered cats and dogs. AKC sent a letter of opposition and materials to city officials. The Canine Legislation department and local fanciers will continue to monitor the situation closely. Contact the Ornate Trail Dog Fanciers (vjrs@aol.com) for more information.

WISCONSIN — Officials in the village of

Luxemburg are currently exploring a proposal to limit residents to a total of three cats or dogs. Owners currently exceeding that number would be allowed to keep their animals. AKC sent a letter and materials to village officials opposing animal limits.

CANADA — The Dog Legislation Council of Canada (DLCC) is formally asking anyone with a few pennies to spare to assist in a legal constitutional challenge in Canada against breed specific legislation.

Thank you to one very active APBT owner, she has managed to find a lawyer with vast experience and love of all dogs in general, willing to take on this daunting, but necessary task.

For those of you not aware, the Provincial Attorney General, Michael Bryant wants to outright ban bull and terriers aka pit bulls to include all breeds involved in the breeding of same. Several of the breeds are protected by the CKC but to date there has been no indication the CKC is willing to challenge any ban on a registered breed that has been restricted or banned.

Michael Bryant is also considering the addition of the rottweiler to this ban.

This would mean no rottweiler could be shown in Ontario unless special authorization is granted and muzzles were in place. Crossing into Canada with a proscribed breed without proper authorization could mean they will seize and destroy your dog.

If included our breed would be:

- Sterilized
- Micro chipped as a dangerous dog
- No further rottweilers would be licensed in Ontario.

- Sever restrictions such as: \$1,000,000.00 liability insurance; no ownership if under 20 years of age; fencing requirements; leash lengths of 2 meters; muzzles while ON or off property.

ITALY — Legislators recently approved an animal cruelty bill that increases the penalty for abandoning pets. Italians found guilty of such an offense are now subject to up to one year in prison and fines of up to 10000 euros (\$16,200).