

THE ENDANGERED BREEDS ASSOCIATION

Bulldog Banter

NUMBER 82 • OCTOBER 2008

Hurricanes affect EBA leadership

What do you do when an unwanted visitor named "Gustav" blows into town?

If you are like Endangered Breeds Association secretary Doris Hutson and her husband, Keith, you take cover.

The hurricane blew over a large tree in the couple's yard in Walker, LA, taking the roof off two rooms of their home. One of those rooms was Doris' office where she keeps EBA records.

The computer and the majority of the records were saved. A copy machine will need to be cleaned. Records were thrust into boxes to get them out of the area as heavy rains continued to fall.

The couple's dogs are being kept among friends until insurance companies and FEMA representatives are through poring over the residence. Keith and Doris are sleeping on the couch in their living room as the second room damaged was their bedroom.

So, if you have recently joined EBA and have not received your membership packet, please be patient. We are assigning the duty of mailing out packets to another board member and hope to be caught up soon.

EBA President Jean Carpenter, her husband, Rick, and granddaughter Paige also fled Gustav from their home in Albany, LA. They loaded up their motor home and went to a relative's home in Alabama. They returned to find



Christina Ridge's pit bull, Doc, cut his front paw on glass during search and rescue efforts in downtown Galveston after Hurricane Ike. He is just one of many American Pit Bull Terriers used in search and rescue work.

some roof damage and several trees down in their yard. Electricity also was out. They stayed a few days in a motor home park in Albany while electricity was being restored.

Several days later, Hurricane Ike headed to Texas and dealt EBA board members JoAnn LeBlanc, Dayton, TX, and Lucretia Ashcraft, Silsbee, TX, a nasty blow. Both had many trees blown over in their yards and had to wait out the heavy rains before they could make repairs.

Several of Ashcraft's dogs got loose when a large tree broke the cable runs they were on. Ashcraft and her sister

were able to corral the dogs, making the rescue in the middle of the night in heavy rain.

EBA member Liz Cowan, who lives in Hardin, TX, near Houston, had heavy damage to her house. Her husband was on the couch when a large tree fell in the house and pinned him. He was able to crawl from the couch unharmed. One of their dogs was killed when the tree fell on the pet porter it was in.

We are sure many other members may have had damage as they weathered the storms. EBA wishes them well and hopes they soon have their lives back to normal.

Moving?

Endangered Breeds Association receives several newsletters and information packets back with each mailing. So, if a move is in your future, please do not forget to fill out a change of address card at your local post office for EBA.

And, when your newsletter or information packet arrives, please check the address information and expiration date (at the bottom of the address label). If you have any questions, please contact Joan Morrison, Rt. 1, Box 71, Gore, OK 74435; morrison@mynewroads.com.

**Memberships expire
Dec. 31 unless
multi-years are paid.**



ENDANGERED BREEDS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

January 2008 – December 2008

BULLDOG BANTER

**Joan Morrison,
Editor**

**Route 1, Box 71
Gore, OK 74435**

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.

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Association**

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www.responsiblepetowners.org

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Jean Carpenter - President

Albany, LA
225-567-5120
ebajeanc@aol.com

Sharon Sundy, Vice President

Phelan, CA
760-949-4863
sharonsundy@hotmail.com

Doris Hutson - Secretary

Walker, LA
225-665-0314
kdhutson@cox.net

Joan Morrison – Treasurer

Gore, OK
918-487-5798
morrison@mynewroads.com

Lucretia Ashcraft

Silsbee, TX
409-385-5497
jolupits@yahoo.com

Kim Krohn

Blue Springs, MO
816-228-1512
krohndog@swbell.net

Russ Krohn

Blue Springs, MO
816-228-1512
ttkck1@swbell.net

JoAnn LeBlanc

Dayton, TX
936-258-8490
tadpits@aol.com

Linda Emmert

Seneca, MO
417-776-8281
flying@netins.net

Laura Dapkus

Whitewright, TX
972-924-8080
laura@lucydog.com

Renee Greenwood

Salt Lake City, UT
801-936-7513
renee@adba.cc

Hank Greenwood ADBA Rep./Advisor

Salt Lake City, UT
801-936-7513
adba@adba.cc

Join the crowd

Endangered Breeds Association now can provide your newsletter to you via e-mail.

Several members already have signed up to receive their newsletters in this way – won't you join?

Sending newsletters via e-mail saves money which can be used to fight the wave of unfair legislation and ordinances throughout the country.

If receiving the newsletter via e-mail appeals to you (plus you get it faster than those who get it by regular post), please send your e-mail address to Joan Morrison at morrison@mynewroads.com

The newsletter also is posted on our Web site www.endangeredbreedsassociation.org and can be downloaded from there. If you choose this method, please let us know so we will not spend postage to send you the newsletter.



MARYLAND

Police raid Md. mayor's home and kill his dogs

By BRET ZONGKER

Associated Press Writer

BERWYN HEIGHTS, Md. (8-7-08) — Mayor Cheye Calvo got home from work, saw a package addressed to his wife on the front porch and brought it inside, putting it on a table.

Suddenly, police with guns drawn kicked in the door and stormed in, shooting to death the couple's two dogs and seizing the unopened package.

In it were 32 pounds of marijuana. But the drugs evidently didn't belong to the couple.

Police say the couple appeared to be innocent victims of a scheme by two men to smuggle millions of dollars worth of marijuana by having it delivered to about six unsuspecting recipients.

The two men under arrest include a FedEx deliveryman; investigators said the deliveryman would drop off a package outside a home, and the other man would come by a short time later and

pick it up.

Now, federal authorities say they're looking into how local law enforcement handled the July 29 raid. FBI Agent Rich Wolf said late Thursday that the bureau had opened a civil rights investigation into the case.

A furious Calvo said earlier Thursday that he and his wife, Trinity Tomsic, had asked the government to investigate.

Calvo insisted the couple's two black Labradors were gentle creatures and said police apparently killed them "for sport," gunning down one of them as it was running away.

Police announced they had arrested two men suspected in a plot to smuggle 417 pounds of marijuana, and seized a total of \$3.6 million in pot. Investigators said the package that arrived on Calvo's porch had been sent from Los Angeles via FedEx, and they had been tracking it ever since it drew the attention of a drug-sniffing dog in Arizona.

WASHINGTON

Dog seriously mauls boy in Moses Lake

By ELISA HAHN

KING 5 News

SEATTLE (9-17-08) — A 6-year-old Moses Lake boy was in serious condition after a pit bull pushed open a gate and attacked him in his yard.

"He's not really wanting to eat and he's in a lot of pain for a 6-year-old boy," said Alissa Gonzales, Alex Medina's aunt.

Family members say Alex was playing in his grandmother's back yard when the dog named Fresno pushed through the fence. Alex turned to run and the dog pounced, biting his face, ears and scalp. His mother and neighbors fought the dog off.

Alex's injuries were so severe, he was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

Workers at the Grant County Animal Shelter say the 7-year-old, 130 pound dog is one of the largest they've ever seen.

Police have already decided the dog should be put down. Police say the owner will face charges.

MICHIGAN

Woman gets prison term for fatal dog attacks

Her bulldogs mauled two people to death, including a 91-year-old man

Associated Press

HOWELL, Mich. (9-18-08) — A woman whose bulldogs mauled two people to

death, including a 91-year-old man, was sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

Circuit Judge Stanley Latreille ordered Diane Cockrell to pay restitution as well as serve from 43 months to 15 years.

Cockrell pleaded no contest last month to two felony counts of keeping dangerous animals causing death and a third lesser charge. A no-contest plea isn't an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing purposes.

Authorities said four of Cockrell's dogs

attacked 91-year-old Edward Gierlach in his driveway and pounced on 56-year-old Cheryl Harper, who was walking or jogging nearby. The attacks happened last September near Cockrell's home, about 45 miles west of Detroit.

Cockrell had a horse farm on the property, and authorities said the wooden fencing surrounding it was not adequate to keep dogs from escaping. Authorities euthanized her 10 dogs.

Cockrell will report to prison Jan. 2.



Around the nation: *Legisla*

(Compiled from reports to Endangered Breeds Association; American Dog Breeders Association and American Kennel Club Web sites.)

ALABAMA

BROOKSIDE — Officials are considering an ordinance with restrictions for pit bull owners in the town. Proposed: prohibiting owners from keeping or owning dangerous dogs; requiring permits for those animals; and penalties for violations of the ordinance. Also included is owners of dangerous dogs, including pit bulls, to register the dogs and pay a \$50 fee. If taken outside the dog must be kept on a 4-foot leash and wear a muzzle. Dog owners would have to keep the dogs indoors or in a pen; post a "Beware of Dog" sign on the property; provide proof of liability insurance of \$100,000 for bodily injury, death or property damage. Three kinds of dogs are described — the American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier and Staffordshire Bull Terrier. 9-16-08

CALIFORNIA

California Assembly Bill 1634 was considered by the California State Senate. After an initial vote of 5 in favor and 18 opposed, the bill was put "on call." Because the bill's floor manager, Sen. Padilla, did not have votes to pass the bill, this legislative procedure allowed the leadership to call this bill for another vote before the end of the day's session. Later, on call, the California State Senate voted 5-27 against Assembly Bill 1634. However, this is not the end of AB 1634. The bill has been granted "Reconsideration" pursuant to Senate Rule 43, which means it can be brought up for another vote. All California residents are urged to contact their state Senator and urge them to vote no on the bill when it is reconsidered. 8-22-08

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO — The Chicago City Council's Finance Committee, in consideration of a proposed mandatory spay/neuter ordinance, was put off by committee chairman Alderman Ed Burke. After several hours of testimony, Alderman Burke delayed a vote to allow more testimony to be heard. No new hearing date has been set. Responsible dog breeders and owners in the Chicago area should voice their opposition to this unreasonable and unenforceable proposal. 7-30-08

CHICAGO — Steve Dale, moderator of the nationally heard WGN Pet Central Program on Sunday nights (WGN RADIO 720 am) and OUR champion of what is right concerning dog legislation in the city (CHICAGO), the State of Illinois, and of dog laws in other parts of the country, has been maligned and threatened with losing his job on WGN because of his stances and his willingness to speak up regarding anti-dog legislation. He has stated his feelings against mandatory spay and neutering and breed specific laws for quite a while. PLEASE (to anyone in the United States) call BOB SCHOMPER (Programming Director of WGN RADIO) at 312-222-3341 (from 9-5 CST M-F) and tell him that you think STEVE DALE is doing a wonderful job for the animals, the city of Chicago and our rights as dog owners. You LOVE HIS PROGRAM ON SUNDAY NIGHTS, and you wanted someone at the station to know he is greatly appreciated. Ask him to get that information to the owner of the station.

IOWA

SIoux CITY — Local dog owners have been fighting a Pit Bull breed ban in Sioux City. The city council is reportedly unwilling to listen and only put out statistics that back up their cause. Council members have received packets of information and CDC stats as well as the position statements of every reputable dog association in the country. The Pit Bull ban was put into place. Am Staffs, Staffy

Bulls, and Pits were included, as well as dogs that have predominantly Pit Bull characteristics. Dog owners were given an opportunity to draft an alternative proposal which the council called "fuzzy" and "unrealistic." Statistics showed 96 percent of all dog bites were by dogs "at large." Of the last 93 bites since 2002, 35 were made by Pit Bulls, 37 by unknown breeds, and the rest fell amongst many breeds. Owners are considering legal action. 9-16-08

WEST LIBERTY — The City Council recently heard a report from the Public Safety Committee regarding a breed-specific ordinance at its regular meeting. The committee, which is made up of Mayor Clifford McFerren and Councilman Bob Hartman, met with City Manager Chris Ward, Police Chief P.J. Brewer, Animal Control Officer Duane Trimble and City Attorney Bill Sueppel to discuss a possible city-wide ban of pit bulls. The committee agreed no grandfather clause for current "pit bull" owners would be put in the proposed ordinance.

Included for the council's review was information received from concerned citizens and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The ASPCA is opposed to breed-specific bans or canine profiling. The letter, drafted by the Chair of the American Bar Association's Dangerous Dog Subcommittee and an employee of the ASPCA, stated that the problem of dangerous dogs cannot be fixed with a breed-specific ban. "The problem of dangerous dogs is not remedied by the quick fix of breed-discriminatory laws," the letter read. "All dogs can bite. Studies of pre and post breed ban dog bite rates in the United Kingdom and Spain concluded that their pit bull breed ban had no effect whatsoever on reducing dog bites. Indeed, Hiawatha, Iowa just repealed their pit bull ban because of identification problems and expense."

The council asked Ward and Sueppel to draft an ordinance which will be brought to council at a later date.

MASSACHUSETTS



Legislation that affects you

Massachusetts House Bill 1948, which was a reasonable and non-discriminatory dangerous dog bill supported by both the AKC and the Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs, has been replaced by House Bill 5092, a conglomeration of many anti-dog, anti-responsible breeder, and anti-responsible owner proposals. Representative Brad Hill sponsored HB 1948, the pragmatic dangerous dog bill, this legislative session. That bill was assigned to the Joint Municipalities Committee, which subsequently sent it to "study." That action usually indicates that the bill will not be considered for the remainder of the session. However, on July 28th, part of the bill was recommitted to the Joint Municipalities Committee, which then produced HB 5092. Among the many problematic provisions to HB 5092, the most egregious include:

- Imposing mandatory spay/neuter of all dogs over 12 months of age; or in the alternative, owners will have to qualify for and annually purchase an intact animal permit at a cost of up to \$500 per dog.
- Limiting the number of reproductive events per female dog to one litter per year, with few exceptions.
- Requiring the reporting of all sales of puppies to local jurisdictions.
- Eliminating the practice of humane tethering, without allowances for hunting or sled dogs.
- Allowing towns and cities to impose breed-specific ordinances.
- Instituting state-mandated vaccination schedules, instead of allowing vaccination schedules to be provided by, and in consultation with, a veterinarian.
- Establishing unreasonable nuisance laws that can result in the forced sterilization, banishment, or euthanization of dogs.

MICHIGAN

The author of Michigan HB 6395, Rep. Bill Caul, has announced the bill will be withdrawn. Staff members said they were surprised with the negative reaction to the proposal. The bill was introduced on Sept. 3.

This proposal would require anyone who sells or offers to sell more than two cats/dogs or more than one litter within any 12-month period to obtain a Pet Seller License from County Animal Control and comply with facility standards.

NEBRASKA

OMAHA — Mayor Mike Fahey recently delivered a detailed amendment list to Omaha's dog ordinance. In the proposed amendments:

The Nebraska Humane Society has the authority to designate dogs as "dangerous" based on their behavior. Dangerous, in this case, includes any animal that inflicts injury on a human; any animal that injures another domestic animal; any animal that chases or approaches a person on the streets, sidewalks or public ground in a menacing fashion; and any animal with a known disposition to attack when unprovoked.

A mandatory spaying or neutering and microchip identification is required upon a dog's designation as dangerous.

Required classes. Owners of dangerous dogs must attend a responsible pet ownership class within 90 days of a designation.

Leash and muzzle requirement for pit bulls. It is illegal for any person to permit a pit bull outdoors unless confined in a securely fenced yard or unless the animal is under the control of a person 19 or older, restrained securely by a leash and properly muzzled.

A pit bull is defined as any dog that is an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Presa Canario or Cane Corso, or any dog displaying the majority of the physical traits of any one of those breeds.

TEXAS

EDINBURG — Pit bulls and their vicious attacks have become a "serious problem" in Hidalgo County, according to a local judge.

Justice of the Peace Charlie Espinoza said he believes the government needs further

control over pit bulls so they cannot attack innocent bystanders or children.

Espinoza's public outcry came following two recent pit bull attacks that killed a young child and maimed another for life.

On Aug. 8, the 2-year-old daughter of Marissa Abrego of rural Edinburg was paralyzed and lost sight in one eye after the family pit bull mauled the child. Abrego faces felony charges for allegedly leaving the toddler unattended with the dog.

And on June 18, a pit bull attacked and killed 5-year-old Pablo Lopez of rural Weslaco.

Less than 1 percent of stray dogs picked up by Hidalgo County officials are pit bulls. That means the dogs are not randomly wandering the streets, said Eduardo Olivarez, who heads the Hidalgo County Health Department.

Rather, they are in the yards of homeowners and families who need to watch after their animals, Olivarez said.

State legislators have recently passed legislation against pit bulls, but Espinoza maintains he wants the animals banned.

A state law enacted in September 2007 boosted the penalty against owners of vicious dogs that attack people off their own property. Known as "Lillian's Law" — named for a woman who died after she was attacked by a pack of pit bulls — the measure allows felony charges to be brought against owners of unrestrained dogs that harm or kill innocent bystanders.

State Rep. Veronica Gonzales, D-McAllen, said Lillian's Law helps victims of vicious dog attacks find justice. If it is properly enforced, the law could encourage pit bull owners to properly restrain their pets.

But Gonzales said she questions whether a sweeping law could be passed that would ban pit bulls altogether.

Espinoza said he and other county leaders, together with other justices of the peace, would sit down in the coming weeks to consider drafting a resolution to lobby the state to impose even greater restrictions on pit bulls and vicious dogs.



EBA booth huge success

The annual American Kennel Club dog show at Reliant Stadium in Houston, TX, was another huge success for Endangered Breeds Association.

For the third year, EBA manned an information booth at the three-day show.

"EBA member Liz Cowan made wonderful posters and had a lot of good information for people to pick up," said EBA President Jean Carpenter. "I can't say enough about how hard she and EBA board member Lucretia Ashcraft

"We heard a lot of people's problems in their towns. And we were able to provide them with some good information."

— EBA President Jean Carpenter

worked. There were long lines of people

waiting to talk to them throughout the show."

Carpenter and EBA Secretary Doris Hutson also attended the show to help in the booth. There were times when the lines were so long Carpenter was afraid they would not be able to provide information for all those who wanted it.

"We heard a lot of people's problems in their towns," Carpenter said. "And we were able to provide them with some good information."

Pet Corner



Gwyneth Laine Brown, 4, gives Jo-Lu's Coal Dust a big hug in Texas. Gwyneth is the granddaughter of EBA board member Lucretia Ashcraft. She hopes to begin showing in junior handler classes soon.

E-mail your photograph to featuresboss@yahoo.com.

It's election time again

It's time for nominations for board members to Endangered Breeds Association.

Board members who will be up for re-election include JoAnn LeBlanc of Texas; Kim Krohn of Missouri; and Renee Greenwood of Utah.

Other nominations can be sent to Jean Carpenter, P.O. Box 1148, Albany, LA 70711; or to ebajeanc@aol.com

All nominations are due by November 15, and voting will be throughout the month of December.

Those nominated must be a member in good standing of EBA.



Bully good info for you

Most, if not all, of the recipients of this newsletter have a “bulldog.” There is a magazine, “Bully Breeds,” out by Fancy Publications (Dog World, Dog Fancy, et al). It has some interesting information regarding these breeds. This is part of their “Popular Dogs Series.”

In the opening article, “Bully for You,” by Lisa Hanks, she says “Let’s define bully breeds because the terminology can be confusing. When we say “bully breeds” in the Popular Dogs Bully Breeds title, we are referring to those breeds that are most often lumped under the “pit bull” label.

These include the American Staffordshire Terrier, the American Pit Bull Terrier, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier, the Miniature and Standard Bull Terriers and the American Bulldog.

The American Staffordshire Terrier is nicknamed the “AmStaff” and the Staffordshire Bull Terrier may be shortened to “Staffie” or “Stafford.” The American Pit Bull Terrier is usually called “Pit Bull” (upper-cased) or APBT. The lower-cased “pit bull” is commonly used generically to refer to any dog that looks pit-bullish, including mixed breeds.

Bully breeds, though, are controversial for a reason. Traits inherited, such as agile strength and, on occasion, stubbornness, mean that owning a bully dog carries more responsibilities and requires more vigilance than does owning other breeds. This isn’t your dad’s easy-going, galumphing Labrador Retriever.

The life of your dog and the right of future dog owners to keep bully breeds depends on how well you handle your bully breed’s training and socialization, among other things. You must also closely monitor every situation for potential problems and satisfy their yearning

How you can help

In a recent article by Marry Sorensen in “Bully Breeds” magazine, she discusses how to be a “bully breed” ambassador.

Like it or not, breed-specific legislation, or BSL, is on the rise across the country. These are state, county and city ordinances that not only address the actions of vicious dogs, but go a step further and define such dogs not necessarily by their behavior but by their genes. Such legislation inevitably arises after highly publicized dog attacks, often targeting the breed involved in the attack. And the target du jour are bully breeds...”

Sad, is it not. And scary. But you can help protect the breed you love.

Sorensen lists several steps:

1. Be responsible (applies to all breeds, not just bully breeds) and socialize, train, leash, license, vaccinate, spay or neuter if not a show dog, pick-up after (you know what that means!), never leave unsupervised with children or other animals, join a club and educate yourself.

2. Be a good neighbor by being friendly, presenting your dogs positively and having good fences (but don’t leave them loose and alone).

3. Extend yourself by educating the people in your community and if possible, get to know community leaders and establish a good relationship to stay informed and be the voice of reason should BSL legislation come up.

There’s also a sub-article by Sorensen, “Don’t Be Bullied - Fight Breed-Specific Laws Successfully.”

It says all the things the Endangered Breeds Association has been saying — stay informed and actively involved in local politics. Watch newspapers and news reports for incidents involving breeds and monitor any actions following it. Pay attention to BSL — it can easily spread to your area. Surf the Web and pay attention to all breeds.

“What affects one breed could easily impact others at a later date,” Sorensen said. She also says to take heart. The voice of reason has prevailed in many cities and states nationwide, and a number of communities have replaced BSL with generic vicious dog ordinances after realizing that animal control officers were having difficulty identifying a breed or after BSL was challenged as unconstitutional.

for near-constant human affection and excitement. You can’t just leave these busy escape artists in the backyard. Yes, these breeds require a lot of work and dedication, but enthusiasts firmly believe they are well worth the effort.

This is so important. Responsible own-

ers are what will save the bully breeds. If you sell pups or dogs to anyone, please make sure they understand the breed and it’s inherent responsibilities. And of course, make sure you have your responsibilities covered. You don’t want them or you to become a statistic.



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-

cial or agencies. We oppose animal abuse or any illegal activities with animals. Membership is \$15-single \$20-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 _____ E-mail _____
Membership type: New _____ Renew _____ Single _____ Family _____

Information packet included

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
Route 1, Box 71
Gore, OK 74435