

Bulldog Banter

NUMBER 103 • MARCH 2015

EBA Board holds meeting during ADBA convention

Members of Endangered Breeds Association board of directors met Feb. 13 in Las Vegas, Nev., during the American Dog Breeders Association convention.

Changes were made with the organization's officers, and a new board member was appointed to fill a vacancy.

Those attending included: Kim Krohn, president; Tom Lundberg, vice president; Joan Morrison, treasurer; Michelle Falcon, Patty Bullock, and ADBA President Hank Greenwood, who serves as an adviser to EBA.

Minutes from the 2013 meeting, which were emailed to board members by Secretary Doris Hutson, were approved.

Joan Morrison, who has served the organization since 1982, asked to step down as treasurer. Board member Russ Krohn will assume the duties of treasurer; Tyler Bullock of American Dog Breeders Association will assume duties of EBA's web page; and Lisa Hutches of Tampa, Fla., has volunteered to do the newsletter. Bulldog Banter is published three times a year - March, October and December.

Lundberg discussed the Texas Breeder Bill that passed in 2013. Enforcement has been difficult and officials are not finding the hundreds of kennels they alleged operated in the state. Texas dog owner Gary Hammonds received a letter regarding his dogs. Lundberg responded to the questions in the letter for Hammonds; and an inventory was sent to officials. They ruled Hammonds did not fall under the law and would not be affected by regulations. Funding is difficult for enforcement, and animal rights organizations have tried to obtain complete control of the Advisory Board that oversees the law.

Responsible Pet Owners Association has sued the state over the law and the group also is working on a bill to change the law. Lundberg said one of the biggest problems

with the law is who sits on the Advisory Board.

The recently passed US Farm Bill discusses APHIS and places all control under the Department of Agriculture. The bill also makes some definitions of what a breeding female is. Greenwood said he doesn't believe the Farm Bill will supersede Aphis regulations, and that Julian Prager of National Animal Interest Alliance is working on the regulations.

Lundberg reported elections in Texas were very successful as far as "dog friendly" candidates were concerned. These newly-elected officials also believe the dog inspections should be overseen by the agriculture department instead of the current licensing bureau which issues licenses to businesses such as barbershops.

Morrison reported there still are monies in the Texas Fund. Greenwood said we should do what we can to support RPOA. Greenwood said ADBA would be willing to send out letters and alerts to Texas residents encouraging people to send emails and make phone calls.

Lundberg also reported Wendy Davis ran for governor of Texas and lost — she also lost her seat in the Legislature — she was tight with PeTA and was pushing the breeder bill and a "kennel size" bill.

Greenwood said now is a good time to get things done in Texas while there is good support in the Legislature.

The board discussed former member Daline Bezerra's absence and determined an appointment would be made to fill her position. Stoney Greene of North Carolina was appointed to the board. Greene had his first APBT as a youngster and that one dog became two, then four, and multiplied to a yard of about 20 to 25 dogs that he and his wife, Rita, care for and show in conformation and weight pull.

In 2010, Greene became an ADBA

sanctioned judge, and has recently become president of Southeastern APBT Club. That club has been sanctioned more than 30 years. Greene's two children also are involved with the dogs.

"I want to see to it that my children's rights to own these dogs always is upheld," he said. "I feel it is a great honor to be asked to serve on the EBA board, and it is my opportunity to give back to these great dogs that have given so much to me and my family."

In other action, Morrison reported EBA began January with a balance of \$6,918.31; had deposits of \$596.33 from memberships and show receipts; had debits of \$590.14; and an ending balance of \$6,924.50. An annual financial report is listed elsewhere in the Banter.

Morrison also reported part of the January income was from the Mid-Florida club show which was in November 2014, but the check arrived in January 2015.

Morrison reported there are 183 members listed, but 92 expired Jan. 1, 2015. There are four complimentary memberships and 30 life members. Several other members have paid multi-year dues. Greenwood stated we needed a membership drive. Bullock said people are feeling better about the fact that EBA has worked hard with other organizations to get BSL under control, and may not be inclined to continue membership. However, there remains quite a bit of work to do regarding breeder bills, tethering, and seizure/bond requirements.

Falcon discussed a "puppy mill bill" passed in New York in 2014; and more and more tethering bills are being proposed in that state. There also is a paraphernalia bill concerning dogs in New York.

Greenwood discussed the seizure bond

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



BULLDOG BANTER

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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.

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ELECTRONIC DIRECTORY

Endangered Breeds Association

www.endangeredbreedsassociation.org

American Kennel Club

www.akc.org
 www.animallaw.com
 www.responsiblepetowners.org

American Dog Breeders

www.adba.cc

National Animal Interest Alliance

www.naiaonline.org

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EBA Board

Continued from Page 1

laws, and said these should be of concern to everyone. These laws require owners to post exorbitant amounts for the care of dogs that could be seized for whatever reason. States with intent laws also need to be watched and there needs to be work to change the intent laws.

Falcon said if you fight the intent laws they assume you are guilty and a dog fighter. The main reason for the intent laws is to have a tool to get a warrant. The dog part of the seizure problem is so small.

Morrison said more owners should be willing to stand up to officials and challenge the intent laws. It was successfully taken down in Oklahoma and the large number of owners who went to the state Capitol to fight the bill had a large affect on getting the law changed.

Falcon reported the New York puppy mill bill passed in January but shouldn't affect hobby breeders as language in the bill was mainly aimed at pet stores. The bill originally passed in 2000, but pet stores sued and the law was changed. The result was shelter animals had to be altered prior to being adopted. In the new bill, pet stores also have to alter dogs and will begin doing that at age 2 months.

Lundberg asked how officials differentiate between breeders and pet stores.

Falcon said the definitions are clear, but the target is dealers. The bill originally was designed to go after Amish breeders. She said it is expected the pet stores will fight this law again. Falcon added BSL comes up occasionally in municipalities and those are dealt with by sending a copy of the generic dangerous dog law.

The board agreed that any city bringing up BSL at this point in time is not successful in getting it passed.

Falcon reported animal rights organizations are pushing a DNA database allegedly to identify fighting dogs. Bullock said the database is being used to instill fear and people believe the database can be useful as an intimidation factor.

Bullock also suggested we keep a database of former EBA members should we need to make a statement on our membership numbers.

Board members are being asked to urge clubs to become 100% clubs as joining through a club is cheaper. Many clubs include the cost of an EBA membership in their club dues.

The board also discussed tethering proposals. This is a way to provide police power and give law enforcement leave to enter your property.

It came to me that every time I lose a dog, they take a piece of my heart with them.

And every new dog that comes into my life gifts me with a piece of their heart.



If I live long enough, all the components of my heart will be dog, and I will become as generous and loving as they are.

— Anonymous

Krohn reported the pre-emptive bill that would prevent municipalities from passing BSL had not been filed as of yet this session. In the 2014 session it became an amendment that was attached to an omnibus bill. Krohn explained the sponsor of the Omnibus bill (Sen. Mike Parson, R - Bolivar) removed the amendment from his bill in conference committee because Sen. Paul LeVota (D-Independence) had threatened to filibuster the bill. LeVota also tried to get on the conference committee to kill the amendment. Kim stated LeVota refused to back off when Ledy Van-Kavage with Best Friends asked a big donor to speak to him, but LeVota, who refused to back down, said his interest was "personal".

The Brenton Mathis case in Virginia was discussed. A full report is in a separate article in the Banter.

There was a discussion about board members paying EBA dues. Falcon stated she thought board members should pay dues. Joan said there wasn't a general consensus and members should be asked to vote on the issue.

In new business, Krohn reported Sho-Me-State club would hold the EBA benefit show May 16 and 17 in Missouri.

Board members whose terms end in December 2015 include Michelle Falcon, Jean Keating and Joan Morrison. Nominations will be received in October and voting will be in November.

It also was announced the 2015 Nationals would be hosted by the Heart of Dixie and Mid-Florida clubs.



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Thanks for your support

The board of directors of Endangered Breeds Association thanks the following: 100% Clubs — Cajun Country, Show Me State, Southern California, Golden State and Lone Star State clubs.

To become a 100% Club, all members of the club also are members of EBA. A club is selected by random drawing before each ADBA convention, and a member of the 100% Club chosen receives paid expenses to the convention.

Clubs donating \$1 per dog from ADBA shows — Cajun Country/Trinity Valley, Sho-Me-State (which also hosted the annual EBA Show), Beaver State, Lone Star State and Mid-Florida.

This is an option for clubs holding sanctioned ADBA shows. In the case of

the EBA show, a certain portion of profits from the show are donated to EBA.

Those donating to EBA — Jena McFall, Amarillo, TX; Kenny Donios, Patterson, CA; Randy Chapman, Orem, UT; Dwayne Stevens, McComb, MS; John & Denise Boos, Lakeville, MN; Hank Greenwood, Layton, UT; Ernest Henderson, Portland, OR; Amy Burford, Salt Lake City, UT; Kate Greenwood, Sandy, UT; Renee Greenwood, North Salt Lake City, UT; R. Chapman & T. Frank, Orem, UT; and Patrick and Sunday Taylor, Houston, TX.

Donations, as well as membership renewals and new members, can be done by using EBA's web page www.endangered-breedsassociation.org and choosing the Pay Pal button.

2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Start balance	\$13,462.94
Income	\$3,401.52
Balance	\$16,864.46
Expenses	\$9,946.15
Ending balance	\$6,918.31
Value of CD	\$50,652.27

EBA auction fun and successful

The highlight of the evening hospitality room Feb. 14 at the American Dog Breeders Association was the auction of bulldog items. The auction is held as part of every convention to raise funds for Endangered Breeds Association.

This year, auctioneer Stoney Greene urged \$1,985 from bidders at the auction which included more than 30 items. The top donated item was a silver and gold belt buckle made and donated by Jim Click of Snowflake, AZ. It brought the top price at the auction and was bought by Rita and Stoney Greene.

Donating other items were American

Dog Breeders Association (items included a donated print by the late Cherie Graves), Heather DeVito, James Rogers, Randy Chapman, Sam Villani, Roger Wolfe, Gary Hammonds, Kim Krohn, Joan Morrison, and EBA.

High bidders were Rita and Stoney Greene. Other successful bidders were Tom Lundberg, Doug Heiser, Kim Krohn, Brian Murty, Kate Greenwood, Hank Greenwood, Andrew Greenwood, James Rogers, Mari Burton, Charlotte Elmore, Randy Chapman, Beth Hundrieser, Heather DeVito, Patrick McCain, Mary Seay, and Josh Schwab.



Around the Nation

Legislation that affects you

Congress, 45 state legislatures and the District of Columbia are currently in regular session. Information below is from American Dog Breeders, American Kennel Club, and Endangered Breeds Association. For the most up to date information, contact your elected officials.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION - The "Farm Bill" (HR 2642) and Farm Bill Conference Report passed by Congress and signed by the President earlier this year provide two changes to reduce the number of small hobby breeders subject to federal regulation as pet dealers under the US Animal Welfare Act as amended by the 2013 Retail Pet Store Rule. It directs USDA APHIS to prepare specific new rules that exempt small breeders who maintain more than four "breeding females" but do not transfer more than a "de minimis" (minimal) number of pets sight unseen. The conference report further directs APHIS to clarify the term "breeding female" to mean only those female animals capable of reproduction and actively being used in a breeding program should qualify as breeding females. By including only those animals currently part of an active breeder program, breeders will be able to maintain retired intact females or grow out young females without fear of triggering federal licensing requirements.

CALIFORNIA - The Long Beach City Council has proposed a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance. There are no provisions to exempt hunting or sporting dogs, those competing in companion events such as agility or rally, and the director of animal care has the power to disallow an intact license.

The Pasadena City Council voted 5-3 to approve the first reading of an ordinance which will institute breeder restrictions and mandatory spay/neuter. This issue began as a proposed breed ban, then breed-specific mandatory spay/neuter and emerged in final form as a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance affecting all dogs.

FLORIDA - House Bill 71 would broaden the definition of service animal to be consistent with federal regulations and prohibit discrimination by timeshares that are transient housing facilities. It provides that an employee who fails to allow a service animal where one is allowed will be guilty of a second degree misdemeanor and will serve 30 hours of community service working for an organization that services those

with disabilities. The bill has been jointly referred to the Government Operations Subcommittee, Judiciary Committee, and State Affairs Committees. Senate Companion, SB 414, has not yet been assigned to committee.

House Bill 187 would regulate greyhound racing in the state by providing that animals may not race if they have been administered certain medications, requiring certain drug testing of animals and providing for certain record keeping relating to injured animals, and directing the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering to direct standards for racetrack surfaces. The measure has been jointly assigned to the Business and Professions Subcommittee and the Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee. The companion measure, SB 262, has been assigned to the Committees on Regulated Industries, Criminal Justice and Appropriations.

House Bill 207 would allow local governments to create a special district to levy fees and taxes that would be used to support spay/neuter programs, increase pet retention, reduce surrenders and engage in animal welfare education efforts. The measure has been jointly referred to the Local Government Affairs Subcommittee, Finance and Tax Committee, and the Local and Federal Affairs Committee.

House Bill 497 would establish standards and regulations for animal shelters, define rescue groups as 501(c)(3)s and direct shelters to work with these rescue groups. The bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

The Lee County Board of Commissioners enacted significant changes to the county animal control code including breeder licensing, warrantless inspections, mandatory spay/neuter and restrictions on keeping dogs outside (even in fenced yards). The commission has directed the animal control director to meet with interested stakeholders, including breeders, to discuss possible modifications. Local fanciers are working with staff to finalize revisions for commission approval.

GEORGIA - The Augusta/Richmond Commission returned to committee with a request for changes to a proposed ordinance that would require dogs six months and older to be surgically sterilized unless the owner obtains an unaltered animal permit. "Registered" service dogs, "actively competitive" show or hunting dogs,

and dogs with serious health conditions would be exempt. Additional problematic provisions would empower animal services personnel to seize and destroy an animal believed to be "diseased" or "crippled" with no notification to the owner, require enclosures of 100 square feet per dog, and require owners to provide veterinary care for every minor injury or illness. As originally written, the proposal would require a greater level of health care for animals than is required for children. A sub-committee has been named to review the proposed ordinance.

The Spalding County Animal Care & Control Advisory Board has proposed an ordinance that would require persons who own or have custody of a dog or cat 6 months of age or older to have the animal surgically sterilized with few exemptions. Owners who wish to maintain an intact dog would be required to purchase a registration license tag and apply for an unaltered animal permit for each dog. The Spalding County Board of Commissioners returned the proposed ordinance to the advisory board with questions.

HAWAII - House Bill 702 would require a person who holds a dog license to give notice to the Director of Finance within 14 days of transfer of the dog. Further, if the dog is microchipped, a license applicant or license holder would be required to provide the dog's microchip number. Failure to provide notice of transfer would result in the most recent license holder and the person who most recently registered the microchip information retaining all liability for acts of cruelty, abandonment and deprivation. This bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

INDIANA - Wayne County is considering kennel regulations that would include ownership limits and impose strict zoning requirements that could prevent hobbyists from breeding in their homes. No official draft has been released.

IOWA - Senate File 168 would require inspections of all commercial breeders; provides for a special commercial breeders reserved license; increase license fees to pay for animal seizures; and prohibit breeders from being involved in certain rescue activities.

KANSAS - House Bill 2030 would make numerous changes to the state's Pet Animal Act. The changes include requir-

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Legislation

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ing inspections for all licensees – including animal breeders, hobby breeders, and boarding/training kennels (current law allows inspections to be up to the state's discretion). Other changes include increasing license fees and removing the grace period for late license applications. It would also require all rescue networks to obtain a license and pay a fee of up to \$10 for every foster home in the state. The House Standing Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources held a public hearing on HB 2030 on January 26.

KENTUCKY - Senate Bill 124 seeks to prohibit local governments from passing any ordinance, regulation or policy that is Breed Specific. The Senate Rules Committee must advance the bill to the full senate.

LOUISIANA - The Jefferson Parish Council was scheduled to consider a proposal to amend the parish's cruelty ordinances regarding the humane treatment of animals. In response to outreach by concerned residents, EBA, ADBA and AKC, consideration was deferred until a future meeting. Local dog owners and clubs are urged to contact council members for information and to express concerns with the proposal.

MARYLAND — Senate Bill 26 would amend the state's tethering laws to prohibit dogs being tethered outside and unattended for over 1 hour if the temperature is less than 32 degrees; or if the temperature is over 100 degrees. This would impact those participating in field trials, sled dog, and other outdoor events. The bill was scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee on February 4.

House Bill 153 is a companion bill to SB 26 and also could directly impact field trials, sledding or other winter dog sports. It also is unclear if the bill would apply if the dog is provided proper protection from the elements. The bill also would prohibit tethering outside for 15 minutes during a hazardous weather warning issued by the National Weather Service.

House Bill 645 contains language AKC finds troubling, such as implying breeders are the reason dogs end up in shelters. The bill also restricts certain pet sales in the state.

MICHIGAN — Senate Bills 28 and 29 would increase the penalties for acts of animal cruelty. Concerns are amendments to clarify some definitions and a proposed definition of breeder which, as currently written, would include anyone "who breeds animals other than livestock for the purpose of making a profit." The bills were passed with amendments on January 27, and are pending consideration by the full

Senate.

MISSISSIPPI — House Bill 1261 seeks to establish the regulation of "dangerous dogs". Among numerous problematic provisions, HB 1261 would define as "dangerous" any "pit bull" dog, which would include American pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, American Bulldogs, and dogs that are a combination of those breeds. SB 1261 would authorize a law enforcement officer to enter, without warrant, any premises where a dangerous dog is kept or believed to be kept. HB 1261 has been assigned to the House Judiciary B committee. However, information to EBA indicates this bill is dead.

House Bill 1304 seeks to make it a crime to own or have custody of vicious animals or dogs unless certain requirements are met. Among numerous problematic provisions, HB 1034 includes definitions that could cause a dog that "endangers the safety" of a domestic animal or that approaches a person in an "apparent attitude of attack" to be declared dangerous, even when such actions occurred on its owner's property. Further, a dog declared "vicious" could not be kept or allowed in any platted subdivision or residential neighborhood. SB 1304 would authorize a law enforcement officer to enter, without warrant, any premises where a vicious animal is kept or believed to be kept. This bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary B committee.

MONTANA — House Bill 179 would make it illegal for a humane shelter or its employees to engage in activities at an animal facility without the owner's consent. It would not apply to the lawful activities of a government agency or its employees carrying out their duties under law. The Montana House Agriculture Committee heard HB 179 on January 27, 2015 but did not take action.

Senate Bill 239 would prohibit local governments from enacting or enforcing Breed Specific laws, but would allow local governments to enact ordinances applying to all breeds of dogs.

Senate Bill 115 seeks to limit the court's discretion regarding bonds for care for animals seized under allegations of animal cruelty. It would expand existing law by requiring accused owners to pay impoundment costs prior to retrieving their animals even when the court directs that the animals be released to the owner pending adjudication. SB 115 would also require the court to order payment of a bond for care in certain civil proceedings. Further, officers of an undefined "animal welfare agency" would be empowered to order euthanization of seized animals. The Senate Judiciary Committee heard SB 115 on January 20, 2015, but did not take action.

NEVADA - The Washoe County Board of Commissioners has held multiple public hearings regarding changes to the county's

animal control code. A revised draft is expected to come before the commission after January 1, 2015. Proposed changes include breeder licensing, dangerous dog updates, changing nuisance regulations and possible regulation of retail sales. Some of the changes will bring the county into compliance with new state laws but in some cases definitions are changed or expanded. Local owners should keep up with this proposal.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - House Bill 661 would require licensed animal shelters and rescues to maintain certain records. The bill is aimed at protecting the public's health, help governments determine how to allocate resources, understand the movement of animals across state lines, and improve accountability for proper operations.

NEW JERSEY - Assembly Bill 2961/Senate Bill 1341 support legislation enacted in 2009 by establishing a penalty for failure to include a bittering agent in antifreeze. SB 1341 has unanimously passed the Senate, and both bills have been approved by the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Assembly Bill 3306/Senate Bill 1870 seek to impose additional requirements on pet shops and pet dealers, including providing consumers with specific breeder information; posting information on enclosures and in internet/print advertisements; prohibiting pet shops from selling, offering for sale, or purchasing for resale, any animal purchased from any breeder/broker who fails to meet certain standards; mandating that pet shops submit annual reports to the state; and allowing localities to impose more significant restrictions. Failure to comply with the requirements and prohibitions established under the bills would result in a \$500 penalty. AB 3306 was consolidated into SB 1870, which has passed both houses and awaits action by Governor Christie.

Assembly Bill 3381, as introduced, expands the animal cruelty statute to include theft or release of animals during burglary. This bill passed the Assembly in December, and is currently under the cognizance of the Senate Economic Growth Committee.

Assembly Bill 991 seeks to establish a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment for harming or threatening to harm animals owned or used by a law enforcement agency or a search and rescue dog. This bill has passed the Assembly, and has been assigned to the Senate Economic Growth Committee.

Assembly Bill 2389 attempts to bar employment at animal-related enterprises, or ownership of animals, for at least two years, of those convicted of or found civilly liable for any animal crime; permits courts to order forfeiture of animals of those found guilty/civilly liable for violating animal

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Legislation

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statutes; provides for new animal control officer rules and regulations; and creates a statewide animal cruelty registry. This bill has passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Assembly Bill 3037 creates a minimum penalty for animal cruelty offenses and revises the state's animal fighting laws. One provision would allow the court to sever ownership rights when someone has been convicted of cruelty. An amendment to allow co-owners the opportunity to claim the animal prior to the dog being surrendered to a shelter or rescue has been proposed. The bill has passed the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and awaits further action by the full Assembly.

OREGON — Current law prohibits carrying a dog on the hood, fender, running board or other external part of any automobile or truck that is upon a highway unless the dog is protected by framework, carrier or other device sufficient to keep it from falling from the vehicle. House Bill 2687 would provide an exception to this provision if the person is operating a registered farm vehicle. The measure has been referred to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

Senate Bill 4 would clarify that a rescue entity includes any group that maintains legal custody of ten or more animals, whether physically located at a facility operated by the entity or kept, housed or maintained elsewhere. The measure has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 378 would define a boarding kennel as "a facility that provides care for a fee to dogs that stay at the facility an average of less than 30 days." It also clarifies that a person operating a boarding kennel is not to be considered a "keeper" of an animal. The bill will be heard by the Judiciary Committee.

Senate Bill 419 would direct animal impounding facilities to work with animal rescue groups (defined as a tax exempt 501(c)3 that operates to find permanent homes for lost, homeless, surrendered or abandoned animals) to facilitate adoption of animals. It further establishes requirements for animal care and adoption processes for animal impounding facilities. Finally, the measure authorizes a humane investigative agency volunteer to be commissioned by Superintendent of State Police as humane special agent. Current law allows only employees to perform in this capacity. The bill has been assigned to the Judiciary Committee.

TENNESSEE — House Bill 147 seeks to establish an animal abuser registry. HB 147 would also redefine "animal" and "companion animal" as used in this legislation. This bill has not yet been assigned to committee.

UTAH — For the purposes of issuing municipal business licenses, House Bill 61 would define a commercial breeder as "a person who for a fee or other consideration maintains in a kennel at any time six or more dogs for breeding or six or more cats for breeding and sells, leases, trades, barters, auctions, or provides to another person the offspring of those dogs or cats." The bill states that a commercial breeder does not include an animal shelter or a

person with five or fewer unsterilized dogs over six months old. It defines a kennel as "a facility where a commercial breeder keeps, maintains or houses dogs or cats." The bill has not yet been assigned to a committee.

VIRGINIA — Senate Bill 1001, as introduced, would have prevented pet stores from obtaining dogs from any breeder that was not in compliance with the Commonwealth's breeder laws, including its 50-dog ownership limit. It also stated that localities could enact even stricter regulations. The Senate Agriculture Committee amended the bill to state that pet stores may only obtain dogs from breeders who have not had a direct citation or three or more indirect citations within the past two years. The bill passed the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee as amended on January 22.

WASHINGTON — House Bill 1018 would make changes to the state's dangerous dog law preventing local governments from enacting breed-specific ordinances. It has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Local clubs and responsible dog owners should support this important legislation.

Senate Bill 5501 amends state animal cruelty laws to make it a class 2 civil infraction to leave or confine any animal unattended in a motor vehicle or enclosed space if the animal could be harmed or killed by exposure to excessive heat, cold, lack of ventilation or lack of necessary water. It allows animal control officers and law enforcement officers who believe the animal is in danger to remove the animal from the vehicle. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Law and Justice Committee.

FBI toughens animal cruelty punishment

From Horse & Reeder magazine

Starting this year and phasing in through 2016, the FBI will categorize animal cruelty as a top-tier offense and track it individually, giving anti-abuse laws in all 50 states more clout.

Traditionally, animal abuse has been lumped with smaller crimes under a generic "other" category, which lessened its priority and made abuse difficult to find, count, and track. Now it will be a Group A offense - along with homicide, assault, and arson.

The four abuse categories will be neglect, intentional abuse and torture, organized abuse (such as dog fighting and cock fighting), and animal sexual abuse.



Pet Corner

R. Ferguson of Biloxi, Miss., sent in this photo of his APBT, Rusty Iron. Email your photograph to ljhutches@verizon.net. Photographs are printed as space allowed. Include your pet's name and town where you live.



Va. man wins 1st round in court; new trial slated for November

Brenton Mathis, charged in Fluvanna County, VA for dogfighting, has won his first round in court after a judge threw the case out after declaring a mistrial.

Mathis was charged with eight counts of dog fighting and 10 misdemeanor counts for failure to care for an animal.

Endangered Breeds Association was contacted about the case by many people who knew Mathis and his dogs, and believed the charges were unfounded. After investigating the information provided to EBA, the board of directors voted to pay an initial fee to Mathis' attorney. EBA still stands by its decision and, most importantly, does not condone or support any type of illegal activities with dogs.

Pictures of Mathis' dogs, taken at the time they were confiscated, show the animals to be in very good condition and no scarring. At the time of his arrest, Mathis owned four adult dogs and six puppies under the age of one year.

Mathis pled 'not guilty' and his attorney says that his family has always had dogs and that they train them for different contests with the American Dog Breeders Association.

After two days of testimony, the jury was all set to hear closing arguments, and Judge Susan Whitlock was getting ready to read jury instruction. Prosecutors realized some key pieces of physical evidence were missing. A Fluvanna Co. Sheriff's deputy transported some of those items back to the sheriff's office without the judge's permission.

The Fluvanna Co. Sheriff's Office said in a statement, "it was discovered that five pieces of evidence that had been entered as Commonwealth's Exhibits during the previous day's testimony had been inadvertently transported to the Sheriff's Office secured evidence storage area and not transported to the Circuit Court secured evidence storage area per court guidelines."

Upon hearing this, Judge Whitlock said, "the court is quite furious about the entire matter. I'm going to take a moment to calm down."

Ten minutes later, the judge came back and told the jury they were free to go.

"You talk about trying a man for cruelty to animals, as far as I'm concerned the Fluvanna judicial system has been cruel to his entire family," said Sandra Morris, a defense witness. "Everything was wrong from the get go."

Friends and family of Mathis are relieved they won't have to hear a verdict yet.

"What do you think? He's been railroaded. I do," said Wood Mathis, Brenton's brother. Mathis's attorney and witnesses will have to prepare to do it all over again.

"Hopefully they'll find him innocent of everything when they finally get him to trial," Hughes said.

Mathis' new trial is set for Nov. 19. His dogs have not been returned to him.

Memberships have expired

When you receive your Bulldog Banter by US mail, please check the mailing label for your expiration date. You also can check your membership card. A list of those whose memberships have expired is listed below. If your name is listed and you have renewed since March 1, 2015, please excuse the listing. Listing the names is the least expensive way for EBA to gently remind you if your membership has expired.

Also, if you have recently had a problem renewing via our Pay Pal option on our website; or you feel your name is listed in error, please contact Joan Morrison at cjmorrison43@yahoo.com

Memberships and donations are the life blood of Endangered Breeds Association. We have a lot of work ahead in coming years battling tethering bills, breeder bills, and bond/seizure requirements.

Please renew your membership soon. You can do this on the web page www.endangeredbreedsassociation.org by

choosing the Pay Pal button; or by sending a check or money order to Endangered Breeds Association, 4600 SW Hickory Lane, Blue Springs, MO 64015.

If you have changed your mailing address in the past six months, please contact Joan Morrison, cjmorrison43@yahoo.com

Expired members include: Joshua Aguirre, Amity Allcock, Orwyn Allcock, Jeremioh Barcelono, Marvin Belisle Jr., Chyrell Bell, Dwight and Pat Brisco, Lucretia Brown, George Burgess, Elbert and Mari Burton, Victor Burton, Gretchen Byars, Lewis Carrera, Tony Carrillo, Noel Carrion and Sarah Carson, P. Chiappetta and V. Williams, Wilferd Cosse Jr., Jason Cuadrado, Duane Deshotel, Angel Diaz, Glen and Kathryn Dockstader, Kenny Donios, Dave Farren, Richard and Janice Ferguson, B. Fitch, Michael and Lynne Flater, Felix Freddie, Cody Freed, Ty and Krissy Garner, Molly Gibb, Judd and Brian Grossman, Doug Heiser, Ernest

Henderson, Tyrone Herrington, Jesse Hodges, Kyle Hubbard, Lisa Hutches, Overton Jefferson Jr., William Johnson, David Johnston, James Joling, Everett Jones, James Kelee, Cindy Kernovich, Shane Kirby, Orlando Lopez, Brian and Vicky Luper, Joseph Mathews, Lisa Mazzini, Victor McDow, Jena McFall, Trey Mitchell, Mike Moak, Nathan Montet, Benjamin and Sara Nally, Philip and Kimberly Palmer, Chico Perez, Chad and Michelle Phinney, Pit Island Kennels, Kevin Powell, Adam Rodriguez, Ralph Rodriguez, Gary Sampson Jr., A. Seguss and E. Biagetti, Jabari Shakur, Glenn and Francine Spiehler, Tim and Alex Sprowl, Smiley Stacci, Dwayne Stevens, Scotty Straun, Shellie Surles, Chris Taylor, Kerstin Thompson, Nicky Tompkins, Charlie Trigg, Pierre Undrea Jr., Voodoo Bully Camp, Terry Wakefield, Shawn Watson, Brian F. Williams Sr., Brian Williams Jr., Gregory Williams, Kyron Williams, Marcel and Joanie Winchester.



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 officials or agen-

cies. We oppose animal abuse or any illegal activities with animals. Membership is \$15-single and \$20-family per year or \$300-lifetime with members receiving three 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 _____
By providing your e-mail address, you agree to receive your newsletter via e-mail.
Membership type: New _____ Renew _____ Single _____ Family _____ Lifetime _____

Information packet included

Please make check or money order payable to the Endangered Breeds Association and mail to:
Kim Krohn, 4600 SW Hickory Lane, Blue Spring, MO 64015

ENDANGERED BREEDS ASSOCIATION
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Blue Spring, MO 64015