

PUPS Bill: Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act

Following the media fanfare for “Baby’s Bill”, HSUS congressional allies Rep. Sam Farr (D, CA) and Sen. Richard Durbin (D, IL) introduced PUPS in the House and Senate. In the press release soliciting co-sponsors for Baby’s Bill, HSUS summarized, “Puppy mills are commercial breeding facilities that mass-produce puppies for sale through pet stores, over the Internet and directly to the public. They commonly house hundreds of dogs in overcrowded, filthy, and inhumane conditions. Breeding dogs at puppy mills are forced to live their entire lives in small cages with no opportunity for exercise or social contact. *An Enormous Loophole in the Law*: Under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulates dog and cat breeders who sell pets wholesale to pet stores or brokers. The law does not apply to commercial breeders who sell directly to the public. This outdated pre-Internet language has created a massive loophole in the AWA as it currently allows these puppy millers to be exempted as “retail pet stores.”

PUPS, like its predecessor PAWS 2005, uses a numerical threshold as the criteria for licensing retail sellers. In PUPS this number is 50 dogs bred and raised annually, labeling those breeders commercial puppy millers. First, the number is meaningless as a marker for care. Second, the loophole referred to is a federal court tested decision to only license and inspect wholesale sellers.

Prepare yourself for the campaign to stop PUPS in 2009 by reviewing the PAWS 2005 articles archived on the NCRAOA website <http://www.ncraoa.com/PAWS2005.html>. Additional information can be found at <http://www.saova.org/PAWS.html> along with recap of the HSUS Puppy Protection Act of 2001 and the December Farm Bill amendment attempt.

Genes Identified

Researchers Identify Gene Linked to Exercise-Induced Collapse in Labs

Researchers at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Saskatchewan’s Western College of Veterinary Medicine say they have identified a gene in Labrador retrievers that is highly associated with the syndrome called exercise-induced collapse (EIC). Labradors affected with EIC—about 3 percent to 5 percent of Labs are said to have this condition—may start to lose control of their hind limbs after intense hunting or retrieving exercises. In most cases, their legs get wobbly and the limbs give out. In rare cases, they may die, according to researchers.

The research, published in the journal *Nature Genetics*, was funded by the Morris Animal Foundation, the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine’s Companion Animal Health Fund. *Source: Veterinary Practice News*

Newly Identified Gene Responsible for "Hairless" Trait in Dogs

Researchers say they've identified an important scientific use for them: They have identified the specific gene that is responsible for the dogs' skimpy coats, and the discovery should shed new light on how animals' bodies develop over time. The team of researchers studied Chinese crested hairless dogs as well as Mexican and Peruvian hairless breeds to identify a mutation in a putative transcription factor gene that they appropriately named *FOXI3*.

They observed that the *FOXI3* gene was expressed in the tissues that give rise to hair, whiskers, and teeth in mice, consistent with the gene's role in the development of these features. A sequence analysis of the gene in both hairless and coated Chinese crested dogs exposed more details about the mutation that results in CED. The researchers say that deactivation of one of the two copies of the *FOXI3* gene causes a severe lack of FOXI3 protein, and that the protein insufficiency is likely what manifests as CED in dogs. *Source:* <http://www.aaas.org/>

NCSU First in Nation to Offer Canine Bone Marrow Transplants

September 3, 2008. Dogs suffering from lymphoma will be able to receive the same type of medical treatment as their human counterparts, as North Carolina State University becomes the first university in the nation to offer canine bone marrow transplants in a clinical setting.

Dr. Steven Suter, assistant professor of oncology in NC State's College of Veterinary Medicine, received three leukapheresis machines donated by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. Leukapheresis machines are designed to harvest healthy stem cells from cancer patients. The machines are used in conjunction with drug therapy to harvest stem cells that have left the patient's bone marrow and entered the bloodstream. The harvested cancer-free cells are then reintroduced into the patient after total body radiation is used to kill residual cancer cells left in the body. This treatment is called peripheral blood stem cell transplantation.

The machines, once used for human patients, are suitable for canine use without modification, as bone marrow therapy protocols for people were originally developed using dogs.

"It's not a new technology, it's just a new application of an existing technology," Suter says. "Doctors have been treating human patients with bone marrow transplantation for many years, and there have been canine patient transplants performed in a research setting for about 20 years, but it's never been feasible as a standard therapy until now."

Canine lymphoma is one of the most common types of cancer in dogs, but the survival rate with current treatments is extremely low. Peripheral blood stem cell transplantation, in conjunction with chemotherapy, has raised human survival rates considerably, and it is hoped that dogs will see the same benefits.

"We know that dogs who have received bone marrow transplants have a cure rate of at least 30 percent versus about 0 to 2 percent for dogs who don't receive the transplants," Suter adds. "The process itself is painless for dogs - the only thing they lose is a bit of body heat while the cells are being harvested." <http://news.ncsu.edu/news/2008/09/tp-bonemarrow.php>

NC Activists Lobby to End Gassing

Activists both in and out of North Carolina are mounting a campaign to introduce legislation in the next General Assembly session that will eliminate use of the gas chamber for euthanasia at animal control facilities. The subject of euthanasia is a highly emotional, controversial issue that is not well understood by the general public.

Emotion-charged information, such as the outdated PETA undercover video which falsely purports to be a representation of current North Carolina shelter euthanasia methods, generally surrounds the chamber issue.

Reportedly, activists have met with Rep. Nelson Dollar (D-Wake), Rep. Paul Stam (R-Wake), Rep. Cary Allred (R-Alamance), Rep. Maggie Jeffus (D-Guilford), and Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue, all of whom have indicated support for new legislation to end chamber use.

For factual information on this issue please visit the NCRAOA website:

<http://www.ncraoa.com/petpopulation.html> On the page with pet population articles is a subheading for Euthanasia Facts and an excellent article by Robert J. Neunzig, DVM, DABVP, Posted with permission of Veterinary Learning Systems Journal - Compendium: *Continuing Education for Veterinarians entitled "An Education in Euthanasia."*

Euthanasia is in itself an unfortunate necessity. The methods of euthanasia, carbon monoxide, sodium pentobarbital, and gunshot in the field, are all accepted by the scientific community as humane, and are humane when properly applied. No method is more humane than another, especially in all situations. The goal must be to require proper training and inspection. Science, not human emotion, should determine how to bring a humane end to these unwanted animals.

Cat Fights: What to Do?

Experts discuss why they happen — and when you should stop them

While fighting among cats is not typical behavior, it does happen. Read on to learn some reasons why cats pick fights with each other — and what you can do about it.

All kittens play, practicing to defend themselves by arching their backs, jumping on each other, chasing each other and maybe exchanging a few nips on the ears. "The difference between playing and fighting," says Katherine A. Houpt, VMD, the James [IMGCAP(1)] Law Professor of Animal Behavior, Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, "is that when playing, cats take turns chasing each other. There isn't one dominant aggressor or one main victim. Nobody hides."

In general, cats don't play much after 16 months of age, and males are more likely to engage in play of this kind. As for fighting, cats will fight at any age. "True fighting is usually more of a one-way process," says Dr. Houpt. "One cat will be the aggressor and the other will be the victim. Hissing, clawing and batting with the paws are more fear-directed than playful. The noisier the interaction, the more likely it's a fight and not play."

What Causes Cat Fights?

Why cats fight may actually surprise you. It's usually not over food; it's usually not over territory (especially in an established multi-cat household). "The most common type of aggression in a cat household is what's called *redirected*," says Dr. Houpt.

Here's the typical scenario: One cat is sleeping peacefully on the couch. Your other cat is sitting on the window sill near the couch, watching the goings-on outside. A strange cat comes rambling by close to the house. The two cats — one inside, one outside — stare at each other. The cat outside, seeing that your cat

cannot reach him, dares to approach the house even closer. Your cat gets furious, maybe jumps at the window but can't do anything to thwart that daredevil glaring at him from outside. In his anger and frustration, your cat finds the next best cat to attack — the innocent, sleepy kitty on the couch. (For humans, it's like getting mad at your boss and then coming home and yelling at your kids.) What follows next can become a pattern if you don't intervene. The cat that attacked becomes the aggressor; the other who was attacked becomes the fearful victim. This can really be reinforced if the attacker repeatedly spies that intrusive cat outside.

Another reason cats fight is over their favorite place to sleep, says Dr. Houpt. If one cat finds another in her napping spot, she might attack to get her spot back. "This kind of aggression is more status-related," says Dr. Houpt. "It's like your cat saying, 'This is *my* spot,' which is different than true territorial aggression which signifies, 'I want you out of this house altogether.'"

Territorial aggression occurs most commonly when another cat is introduced into the household. "But it's not always the newly-adopted cat who get picked on," says Dr. Houpt. "Sometimes it's the other way around. You can usually tell who the aggressor is: One of the cats — either the adopted one or the original cat(s) in the household will seek out the other and fight with it." Cat fights are also triggered when something changes about the cat, especially its scent, says Dr. Houpt. This can happen by bathing a cat, taking a cat to the veterinarian, or taking your feline to a cat show. "If one cat gets outside, the other cat at home may attack it because the cat has picked up some strange odors outside," says Dr. Houpt.

Stopping Attacks

Luckily, many cats stop short of fighting on their own. One cat will swallow its pride, walk away and let the other cat be the reigning feline in the house. But when there is a lot of fighting that renders one cat fearful — or there's the possibility of injury — you should stop the fight. Here are some tips to stop fights and also prevent them:

- If your cats are really going at it, use distraction as a means of stopping the fight. Make a loud noise or spray them with a water bottle, if necessary. Don't physically try to separate them because you could get clawed yourself, says Dr. Houpt.
- If fights continue between two particular cats, you may need to separate them for a full week, keeping them in different areas of the house. Then slowly reintroduce them.
- Exchange your cats' scents so they will seem more familiar with each other, especially when introducing a new cat into the home or if your cat has picked up a strange odor from the outside. "Take a cloth and rub each cat on the cheeks and top side of the tail where the scent glands are located," says Dr. Houpt. This helps mingle their scents, and they should feel less threatened by each other.
- For redirected aggression, try to prevent strange cats coming into view outside your window. This is, of course, difficult to do. One suggestion: "Use window wallpaper on the glass," says Dr. Houpt, "which prevents people from looking in — or your cat from looking out. Place it at the bottom of your window, so that light can still come in."
- If all else fails, your veterinarian may prescribe medication for both cats — to decrease aggression in the attacker and to decrease fear in the victim.

By Ilene Springer http://www.catwatchnewsletter.com/issues/12_10/features/140835-1.html

Studying How Sled Dogs Run 1,100 Miles Through the Harshest Conditions May Help Human Endurance

Dogs are often called 'man's best friend,' and rightly so. Consider, for example, that they never interrupt us when we talk, are always happy to see us when we arrive home, and provide comfort when we are lovesick. Since dogs became domesticated 15,000 years ago, they have worked with and lived next to humans, which some say may account for the special bond. Each of the 400 breeds and varieties are unique, but only one stands out as the ultra-athlete canine: the racing sled dogs.

Racing sled dogs are best known for their 'mushing' each March during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, the world's longest sled race. They are the premier ultra-endurance competitors, covering 1,100 miles from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska, sometimes in just nine days. It is unclear how they can keep running, despite heavy blizzards, temperatures as low as '40°F, and winds up to 60 mph. No other animal has been found to come close to the physiological attributes these dogs display.

Dr. Michael Davis has focused on the mysteries of this breed for work for more than a decade. The professor at the Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences will discuss his recent findings entitled, 'Metabolic Strategies for Sustained Endurance Exercise: Lessons from the Iditarod.' His presentation is part of the American Physiological Society's (APS) (<http://www.The-APS.org>) conference, The Integrative Biology of Exercise V, held September 24-27, 2008 in Hilton Head, SC.

How Do They Do It? The Exercise Physiology of Sled Dogs

The physiological understandings that Davis and his colleagues have uncovered thus far are extensive.

Among their findings is:

- **Rapid Adaptation to Exercise and Endurance** - The most striking feature of these canines is their ability to rapidly adapt to sustained strenuous exercise in 24-48 hours. Conditioned dogs display most of the metabolic changes that are found in human endurance athletes during their first day of exercise, including depletion of muscle energy reserves, increases in stress hormones, evidence of cellular injury (such as to proteins, lipids and DNA), and oxidative stress. However, with subsequent consecutive days of exercise at the same intensity, these changes are reversed. Within four days after exercise begins, the metabolic profile of the dogs returns to where it was before the race began, despite their sustained, strenuous exercise. When human ultra-athletes become fatigued, they stay that way until a period of recovery that may take a full day.
- **Enormous Aerobic Capacity** - Racing sled dogs have enormous aerobic capacity. While the untrained sled dogs have an average aerobic capacity of 175 ml/kg/min VO₂ max (ratio of volume of oxygen to body weight per minute), the aerobic capacity of the fully conditioned sled dogs is estimated to be about twice that (300 ml/kg/min).
- **Using A High-Fat Diet to Fuel Exercise** - During periods of racing, sled dogs can burn up to 12,000 kilocalories per day (kcal/day). This means that a 55-pound sled dog will consume the equivalent of 24 McDonald's Big Macs to fuel their run on any given day. Some of the running dog's high-fat diet is converted to energy in the liver, and used as fuel in the initial stages of exercise. Preliminary data suggests that this process is a desirable trait intended to efficiently support exercise in the racers.

It is worth noting that humans would need 72 Big Macs to fuel the power they need to make a day's run, assuming their body could absorb and process all the fat contained in the beef.



Next Steps

The mechanisms that make these four-legged athletes premiere in performance is still unknown. Dr. Davis theorizes that it may involve the regulation of extremely thin membranes in the muscle fibers and changes in the cells that are responsible for the body's energy production. "These are one-of-a-kind athletes. What we learn from them will undoubtedly tell us a lot about human performance as well."

Article adapted by Medical News Today from original press release.

Source: Donna Krupa, American Physiological Society

Article URL:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/122913.php>

Research Into Deadly Cancer In Dogs May Also Have Human Applications

A new study jointly conducted by Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine and the Oregon Health & Science University Cancer Institute may one day help not only our canine friends with cancer, but also people with the human form of the disease.

Forging this unique relationship is OSU veterinary oncologist and researcher Stuart Helfand, D.V.M., and Brian Druker, M.D., director of the OHSU Cancer Institute.

Helfand has been researching canine cancer, especially what drives cancer, for about 25 years - an amount of research time similar to that of Druker, who discovered the targeted therapy drug Gleevec for chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). Gleevec has not only revolutionized cancer therapy for most people, it has recently been found to have activity in mast cell cancer, a tumor commonly seen in dogs.

Reasoning that what is learned about human tumors may be applied to animal tumors and vice versa, the two cancer experts have secured a three-year, \$200,000 Morris Animal Foundation grant to study hemangiosarcoma in dogs. Helfand, the principal investigator, was one of the first to discover abnormalities in hemangiosarcoma growth pathways similar to those responsible for CML in humans.

Hemangiosarcomas strike all dog breeds, but is more often found in German Shepherds and Golden Retrievers. It is a rapidly growing, highly invasive cancer. Helfand's clinic sees about five dogs a month with this cancer. Thanks to this grant, the Druker Laboratory is now studying a cell line developed in Helfand's laboratory from a German Shepherd that died of this sarcoma.

The researchers want to see what drugs can be developed to treat this disease. In turn, this research may ultimately benefit people with similar cancers.

"Over the years we have made the case that animals with cancer can be excellent models for human disease - they live in the same environment, their lifespan is long enough for study and their cancers mimic human cancers. Sometimes the line blurs: cat, dog, people," said Helfand, a veterinary oncologist in the new OSU veterinary cancer program.

And the human connection also brings hope.

"This could be a pilot for treatment in humans. The hope is that we can use this drug screening in the future for personalized cancer therapy," said Jeff Tyner, Ph.D., a research fellow in hematology/ medical oncology, OHSU School of Medicine. He and Marc Loriaux, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of both pathology (anatomic pathology) and of medicine (hematology/medical oncology), are responsible for the drug screening research in the Druker Laboratory.

Article adapted by Medical News Today from original press release.

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/122712.php>

Durham County Animal Control Ordinance

County Commissioners meeting September 22. At the request and recommendation of the Animal Control Advisory Board, the Tax Department was approached to bill and collect for animal fees, due to their experience and success in collection of taxes. To transfer the billing and collection of the animal fees to the Tax Department requires amendments to the existing ordinance. The provision changes the animal fee to an animal tax and places the listing, billing, and collection of animal taxes with the Office of the Tax Administrator. County Manager, Mike Ruffin, recommended the changes to the animal ordinance be approved allowing the fee to become a tax.

Non-Profit Organizations CAN Lobby

Yes, non-profits can lobby. Considering the number of crucial issues non-profits and their members face, it is more important than ever that they participate in public policy debate. There is a limit on the budget that can be used and other rules concerning direct intervention in political campaigns.

Why Have Many Nonprofits been Reluctant to Get Involved in Public Policy?

There is a myth that it is illegal for nonprofits to lobby. That is not true. Lobbying by nonprofits is perfectly legal and supported by IRS regulations. Some foundations and government agencies restrict nonprofits from using their funds for lobbying but this does not make it illegal. Those are contractual agreements only regarding use of the foundation or government resources. Many foundations, similar to many nonprofits, erroneously think they need these restrictions to protect themselves from government regulations. This is changing as more and more foundations begin to realize the critical need for nonprofits, especially those that represent low income and marginalized communities, to make their voices heard.

Learn more at the Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance website:

<http://www.saova.org/tutorial.html>

Misguided Anti-Horse Transportation Bill Moves Forward

Courtesy of the Animal Agriculture Alliance

The Animal Agriculture Alliance learned on September 23rd that the horribly misguided and misleadingly named Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act (H.R. 6598), a bill which would criminalize the sale and transportation of horses for the purposes of slaughter, was approved and recommended to the House of Representatives by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill passed by a voice vote. It is our understanding that the Committee has finalized its report for submission to the Rules Committee.

Multiple amendments intended to lessen the frightful negative impact the bill would have on horse welfare were defeated along largely partisan lines. The Alliance's full report on the meeting, including a record of how committee members voted on amendments, is available on the Current Issues section of its website .

H.R. 6598 was introduced by Judiciary Chairman John Conyers (D-MI) and Representative Dan Burton (R-IN) under the guise of protecting horse welfare, but it will produce unintended and inhumane consequences. Since legislative and legal maneuvers at the state level have created a de facto ban on horse processing in our nation, the number of abandoned, neglected, and starving horses has drastically increased. H.R. 6598 will exacerbate the already growing problem of neglected and unwanted horses in America.

The majority of horses processed for slaughter in the United States were no longer viable for their intended use, unmanageable, or simply unwanted by their owners. These horses were sold at auction with some going to horse processing plants. The plants, when in operation, provided humane euthanasia as dictated by the Humane Slaughter Act.

This bill would severely limit the rights of owners to manage their private property and subject horse owners to criminal prosecution should they sell or transport their horses for processing for human consumption, even if that is not their intention.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA), American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), among many others, oppose this fatally flawed bill. House Agriculture Committee members continue to argue that this bill is within that committee's jurisdiction.

The Animal Agriculture Alliance urges its members to contact their congressional representatives about this bad, and potentially precedent setting, legislation. Though many knowledgeable and prestigious groups oppose this bill, **your congressional representative will respond best to a phone call indicating your personal concern.**

More information is available at the Animal Agriculture Alliance website:

<http://www.animalagalliance.org/main/home.cfm?Section=Main&Category=Home>

Note: The Judiciary Committee had two days to report the bill out to the House floor or attach it to any bill moving through for a vote. Congress has adjourned until January which means HR6598 is dead and must be introduced again in 2009.

That Won't Happen Here

They can't enforce it....no one knows how many dogs I have...no one knows where I live...

I have heard all these excuses and more in the last few months. None of them will console you when your dogs are so regulated they cannot leave your yard. Many look at this as someone else's conflict. It's the people with bully breeds, or the aggressive dogs; it's the purebreds or the mixed breeds; it's the hobby breeder or the large commercial kennel—herein lies the problem—unreasonable laws affect all of us. The problem is that there are only a handful of knowledgeable people aggressively fighting for all of our rights, and they're up against the entire animal rights movement.

HSUS has come to town, and although I dislike their agenda, I must acknowledge that they are organized, funded, and dedicated to their cause. When an email goes out about a meeting, their people show up in droves. They repeat the party line, and win friends and influence officials. Because they are able to do this, county government is convinced to agree, and backs their opinions and their issues.

Where were "we"? Busy with children, community events, dog events, vacations, meetings—we'll get involved at some point, but we're busy today—can't make Thursday's meeting, or the one next week either...go to Orange County for a meeting?? Why? I don't live there.

The excuse for not being involved doesn't really matter. As the animal rights agenda advances county by county, there will be sweeping changes to dog and cat regulation.

All animal owners must be willing to stand up and be counted. To be counted you must show up, speak your mind and present your facts. I am asking each of you to become involved and fight with us.

Natalie Rowntree
NCRAOA

"Moral cowardice that keeps us from speaking our minds is as dangerous to this country as irresponsible talk. The right way is not always the popular and easy way. Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character." Margaret Chase Smith

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma -which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary." Steve Jobs, President - Apple Computer

"Sometimes the law defends plunder and participates in it. Thus the beneficiaries are spared the shame and danger that their acts would otherwise involve... But how is this legal plunder to be identified? Quite simply. See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them and gives it to the other persons to whom it doesn't belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime. Then abolish that law without delay ... No legal plunder; this is the principle of justice, peace, order, stability, harmony and logic." Frederic Bastiat

North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws.

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