



Clublicity

Dayton Dog Training Club
August 2020

We have completed the purchase of the building.

Now what?

By Darlene Rak

Back in March we completed the process of purchasing our part of the building. We paid \$775,000, put \$155,000 down, and took out a 15 year mortgage at a 4.85 percent interest for the balance leaving us approximately \$50,000 available in reserve. We gained multiple rooms, more square footage, more entry doors into the building, and two more bathroom areas. We also now own the parking area surrounding our section, the lawn and all landscaping, and the two exterior garages. A wonderful new chapter in the history of DDTC has just begun!!

Enter COVID and all its challenges. What could we do or not do and how could we do it? At first we simply had to shut down. We used that time to clean and organize the new areas and had a lot of member help doing it. Multiple people worked hard to get the additional bathrooms operating properly and looking much better! We have what is similar to a real living room set up at all times to add to our Scent Work program for interior searches. The board also spent many hours figuring out how we could safely open when we could begin holding classes and events again.

Simultaneously, utilities were being separated from the rest of the building that we do not own – water, gas, and electric all had to be split or rerouted and new meters installed for most. The water and gas are completed; however, DP&L is still working on the electric on the highway side of the building. The pole near the building with the transformer on it will eventually be gone. Right now it is rather messy in that area with a trench and loose rock so please be careful.

We are also in the process of updating all emergency signs and lighting. You may see paper pictures of these at various places throughout the building. Rest assured the actual equipment will replace those paper ones as soon as possible.

Building Purchase

continued from cover

We have more to clean inside on a regular basis. We also took over the outside lawn maintenance work to eliminate that expense. If you are interested in earning volunteer hours and can help with inside cleaning please contact, Karen Fischer. For lawn mowing, weeding, pruning or other outside work please contact Rhonda Holzhauser. Both crews currently are doing a great job on the inside and outside areas and we thank them very much.

We have two tenants who are helping to pay our bills! Mr. Arnett, our former landlord, is renting the two garages and Carl and Rhonda Holzhauser rent two rooms on the pond side of the building for Collar Master, their business. Some of the smaller new rooms were rented out to participants as private crating areas during a recent agility trial and the feedback on that fundraiser has been quite positive.

We restarted classes the week of June 8 with changes in place so we could finally finish the spring session that had been shut down. Many of our trials had also been canceled or rescheduled and those have begun again as well. We always **STRONGLY** encourage mask wearing when at the club regardless of whether it is a part of the governor's mandate. We have seen some dog reactivity with the mask wearing so please always be vigilant about dog safety when at the club. Social distancing when at the club is a must. There are hand-sanitizing stations all over the building along with disinfectant sprays to clean any items, doors, and/or doorways that get touched.

The board is extremely thankful to all members who have encouraged and assisted through the building purchase process. We look forward to the many new experiences and events that may now come about. If you have any ideas, comments, or concerns, please contact a board member.



Dayton Dog Training Club and the coronavirus pandemic

By Jane Adams

Who would have thought that this year would present Dayton Dog Training Club and the world with such a unique and deadly challenge?

The novel coronavirus, now known as Coronavirus-19, nCoV-2019, or COVID-19, first presented in Wuhan China in late 2019. The term “novel” is given to any virus not previously seen in humans. Other examples of novel viruses include SARS, MERS, and the 2009 influenza pandemic caused by the H1N1 influenza virus. Typically, novel viruses jump from animal host to humans by routes unknown.



Believed to have started in the open-air markets in Wuhan, the virus spread quickly. While little is known of its source, scientists assume that the pathogen jumped to people from an animal, as has been seen with other coronaviruses. For example, the virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is thought to have jumped to humans from civets in 2002. The prime COVID-19 source, though not confirmed, appears to be the pangolin, a scale-covered insectivore about the size of a house cat that is highly valued in Asia for its meat and scales. Last year alone, authorities seized more than 130 tons of pangolin related products, a figure estimated to represent up to 400,000 animals.

Just as Dayton Dog Training Club was celebrating the purchase of our building and the start of the spring session, disaster struck in the form of the pandemic. The decision was made by the board to postpone classes. It was not an easy decision. The revenue generated by our classes is what made it possible for the purchase of the building. I was in contact with my colleague and mentor Dr. Tony Fauci in the early stages of the pandemic. We spoke for the first time in late November when reports in scientific journals started to document cases of a strange, deadly respiratory syndrome in China. By mid-January, the first case had made its way to the United States. The rest, as they say, is history.

Fast forward to today. With all information provided to us by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local health departments, the board decided to shut the club down in March to be in compliance with Governor DeWine's directive. During the shutdown members of the board worked diligently to develop the plan for reopening. With the plan in place, volunteers came in the week before classes to deep clean the facility. Members made generous donations of hard-to-find hand sanitizer and disinfectants. To wear masks or not to wear masks was a hard

decision. Taking all things into consideration, how dogs might react to the masks, whether we were required to force the public to wear a mask, and whether our volunteers were required to wear masks, it was decided to allow instructors to make that decision for their classes. Signs were placed throughout the building reminding students and instructors to maintain the six-foot distancing, highlighting the importance of handwashing, and reminding them to stay home if ill. Each student received hand sanitizer on the first night of classes, and we set up hand sanitizer and disinfectant stations at each ring so that everyone would have access to hand sanitizer and instructors could disinfect all surfaces before leaving at the end of class. Classes were assigned entry and exit doors to avoid congestion and class times were altered to allow one class to exit the building before the next class entered. The first week of classes, extra volunteers were in the parking lot directing cars to the correct parking area, once there, they were greeted by another volunteer directing them to the correct entry door. With all the planning, things went smoothly. Students and instructors were happy to be back.

Now, with numbers of positive patients on the rise in Montgomery and surrounding counties, we must be vigilant. Mask wearing is strongly encouraged, surfaces need to be cleaned regularly, and hand washing, the best defense against infectious disease, is a must. If you, member or student, does not feel well, STAY HOME!!! We cannot let our guard down. We are in this together.

Dayton Dog Training Club is one of the best clubs in the area if not the state. Together we make great things happen. Together we can weather this pandemic. Eventually things will get back to some form of normal. Hang in there and STAY HEALTHY!

AKC and clubs adapt and improvise to deal with coronavirus

It's obvious that dog sports have taken the same hit as the rest of the country as we cope with the pandemic coronavirus. By the end of March, clubs were scratching or rescheduling events by the dozens, and although the flood has slowed, clubs are still cancelling because as tri-state governors change directives about resuming group activities.

Mid-August and beyond cancellations in the tri-state include the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America specialty at Roberts Centre in Wilmington; all-breed shows

and associated specialties at Owensboro and Lexington, Kentucky; the Warren County Kennel Club all-breed Labor Day show weekend at Roberts Centre; and the Afghan Club of American National Specialty at Roberts in late September.

Local training clubs have fared better as Ohio's Governor Mike DeWine loosened the reins on restrictions. DDTC has reopened under strict guidelines provided by the state health department and AKC and will hold club trials and host agility trials for several other clubs through the late summer and fall.

Making the best of a bad situation



Tough as this has been for dog trainers and exhibitors, the closures and stay-at-home orders provided opportunities for creative handlers. Members of some area clubs formed Internet groups to stay in touch and to take advantage of on-line training seminars and lessons. AKC opened its Trick Dog title program to allow videos of a dog's performance to qualify after review and approval by a CGC evaluator. For information on Trick Dog, go to <https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/>.

Those who are able to take a walk with their dog while maintaining social distancing can join the AKC FitDog program by keeping a record of their excursions. To qualify for the FitDog program magnet, teams in good shape must record walks of at least 30 minutes five times per week for a total of at least 150 minutes per week for at least three months. For senior dogs and owners, duration of walks can be cut in half as long as the total equals 150 minutes over five days per week. For FitDog information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ux2vhzs>.

Handlers practiced conformation stacking and exams for the breed ring, tightened up obedience exercises, started scent work, or practiced Rally signs in back yards or family rooms, but agility, dock diving, barn hunt, and advanced CGC practice has to wait until the all-clear sign from the governor.



AKC

Along with opening the Trick Dog program and encouraging owners to keep up daily walks, AKC has adapted to the current situation by waiving some rules and helping clubs reschedule their events rather than cancel them altogether.

In order to provide the sport greater flexibility during this time of uncertainty, the AKC Board approved several policy and procedure modifications for 2020, with exceptions as noted.

For events cancelled in 2020, AKC will apply application fees to the clubs' next event of the same type provided the club has notified the AKC of the cancellation.

Juniors who turned 18 on or after March 1 this year can continue to compete until October 31 so they may qualify for both the AKC National Championship and Westminster.

Clubs that submit late applications for events and judging panels will not be fined through October to give clubs more time to reschedule and plan their events.

All Canine College courses will be half price through May 31. Go to <https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/> for a list of courses for breeders, judges, groomers, and exhibitors.

Clubs will not be held responsible for public education requirements but AKC encourages them to do their best to increase their social media presence and educate their local communities.

Links

AKC has a corona virus update at <https://tinyurl.com/vru52eh>.

“Can dogs get coronavirus?” is at <https://tinyurl.com/tko768x>

“Sheltering in place with your dog during an emergency or disaster” is at <https://tinyurl.com/s2p43jd>.



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

Belgian Laekenois gains full recognition in AKC

The Belgian Laekenois, the fourth herding dog native to the Kingdom of Belgium in northern Europe, became the latest addition to the AKC Herding Group on July 1. A member of the Miscellaneous Group for nine years, the breed has been seen in companion events and herding trials since 2011, but it is so rare that few people in the US have had even a glimpse of this wire-coated version of the Belgian herding breeds.

Laekenois originated in the town of Laeken and is considered a variety of the Belgian Shepherd, a breed name that includes our Belgian Sheepdog, the Tervuren and the Malinois in its home country. However, AKC considers the quartet to be four different breeds.

An adaptable breed that started as a palace flock herd and guarded linen set out to dry in the fields, the Laekenois also did duty as a messenger dog in World War II and was targeted by Germans for their success. Today the versatile breed excels at companion events and is a willing worker at search and rescue tasks, detection work, and as therapy and service dogs.

Like its cousins, this Belgian breed is medium-sized, topping off at 26 inches and about 65 pounds for males and a bit less for females. Coat is rough and coarse with a disheveled look. Colors are shades of red or fawn to grayish with traces of black on the muzzle and tale and white permitted on feet and chest. In character, the breed is a willing worker, affectionate and loyal to its family, alert, intelligent, and watchful with strangers.

Photo credit: By Christoffer Magnerholt - Own work, GFDL, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1679188>



Shelter-in-place orders increase interest in veterinary tele-health option for pet care

Tele-health or tele-medicine has been around via radio and telephone for decades but has grown up in the computer age. The widespread use of devices that allow Internet content to travel through networks facilitates communication between doctor and patient, or in this case, between pet owner or caretaker and veterinarian or between clinician and specialist. Tele-health can be as simple as a telephone conversation, an exchange of e-mails, or a radio link-up or as complex as video conferencing or electronic transfer of test results from a lab to a clinic or a general practitioner to a specialist.

The advantages of tele-health are obvious, especially in situations where pet owners and veterinarians must avoid face-to-face contact as much as possible in a health emergency. However, like just about everything, government has a say in its use.

State laws generally require that veterinarians establish a veterinarian-client-patient relationship, also referred to as a VCPR. The Ohio Revised Code defines the state version of the VCPR as the basis for interaction between veterinarians, their clients and their patients. It includes the veterinarian's responsibility to examine and diagnose the patient and recommend any treatment deemed necessary; the client's agreement to follow the veterinarian's instructions regarding the patient; and the veterinarian's responsibility to provide follow-up evaluation personally or by arranging emergency coverage if the treatment causes an adverse reaction or fails. The VCPR thus precludes diagnosis and treatment unless the veterinarian and the client have established this relationship.

The COVID-19 emergency has required veterinarians to modify their practices. Because pet services are considered essential under state and federal guidelines and allowed to remain open, veterinarians have initiated protocols that allow them to serve their clients while maintaining social distancing to limit the potential for doctors and staff to contract the virus. To achieve this goal, many veterinarians use curbside drop-off for pets, and some have instituted tele-health services such as e-mail consults and video-conferencing for their regular clients.

Emergency pet medicine presents a different set of problems as, by definition, the client and veterinarian do not have a continuing relationship and the veterinarian has probably never examined the animal. Pet owners confronted with such a circumstance should know the protocol established by the emergency medicine provider. MedVet Dayton in Moraine makes it easy: their COVID-19 procedure is on their website at <https://tinyurl.com/y82h7tt4>. It offers both curbside service and some tele-health options when appropriate.

Resources

Telemedicine: A Guide to Assessing Telecommunications in Health Care, National Center for Biotechnology Information, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK45440/>.

Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board Position Statement on Telemedicine/Telehealth, <http://www.ovmlb.ohio.gov/pdfs/Telelmed%20position.pdf>.

More than meets the eye

Veterinary ophthalmologist looks for gene that causes inherited disease in golden retrievers



Dr. Wendy Townsend, associate professor of ophthalmology in Purdue University's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, has focused her career and research in veterinary medicine to diagnosing and treating eye conditions in animals.

Dr. Townsend's research includes an inherited form of uveitis found almost exclusively in Golden Retrievers. The disease causes inflammation of the

uveal tract, and though it is inherited and can lead to blindness, the onset and diagnosis usually occurs when the dogs are older and may have already passed it on to offspring. About 10 percent of the breed is affected.

Townsend is leading a study that is trying to identify the gene that causes the disease. If the gene can be identified, the disease can be detected earlier, and breeders will be able to identify which of their dogs might be carriers and how they can keep the disease from being passed on to future generations.

See the full article at <https://tinyurl.com/y9vr9ls3>.

PHOTO: Dr. Wendy Townsend, associate professor of ophthalmology in Purdue University's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, has focused her career and research in veterinary medicine to diagnosing and treating eye conditions in animals. (Ed Lausch, Lausch Photography)



Upcoming Events

*Visit our website for more information:
www.daytondogtraining.com*

DDTC will continue with classes and events under safety guidelines and restrictions imposed by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine to protect members, students, and exhibitors during the emergency imposed by the COVID-19 coronavirus.

Class Schedule—Late Fall 2020 Session

Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, and Conformation

Thursday night classes begin on October 8

Monday night classes begin on October 12

Tuesday classes begin on October 13

Wednesday night classes begin on October 14

No Classes October 15, November 23-26

Agility

Late Fall Session begins on October 5

DDTC Events and Building Rentals

Clermont County Kennel Club Agility Trials, August 28-30

DDTC Agility Trials, September 5-6 (set-up September 4)

Hamilton Agility Trials, September 18-20 (set-up September 17)

Unleashed Agility CPE trials, September 25-27

ASCA Agility Trials, October 10-11 (set-up October 9)

DDTC C Match, October 15

DDTC Obedience & Rally Trials, October 16-18

DDTC Agility Trials, October 23-25 (set-up, October 22)

Board Meetings

Generally the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Building Cleaning

Thursdays; no equipment set-up for practice

Watch the io group list and our website for schedule updates.

Braggs and Accomplishments

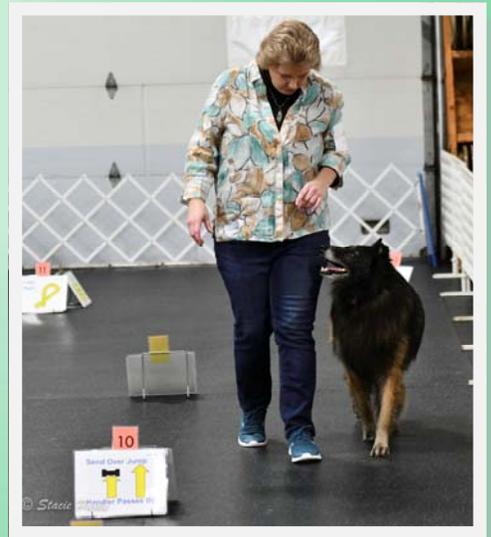
Congratulations to all members who have achieved titles and other milestones with their dogs.



Diane and Mike Scott with Shiraz

DDTC members place high in F&F Rally standings. Diane and Mike Scott's Shiraz was top Doberman and the number two working dog in the 2019 Front & Finish Rally standings. Sue Young and Belgian Turveren Diamond placed fourth in their breed, and we hear that other members also did very well. So congratulations to all. If you and your dog made the standings and would like recognition, send info to *Clublicity* at clublicity@daytondogtraining.com.

Kate Stephenson and Belgian Tervuren **Aslan** had a good 2019! He finished his Rally Master and RAE2 titles. We didn't start seriously training for Master until mid/late July, started competing in mid August, and finished in November with 10 legs in 10 attempts. Aslan ended up with enough good scores to be eligible for the Championship Class at the Rally National Championship. He was also a Parade of Champions Invitee (Rally) for the American Belgian Tervuren Club's National Specialty, finished as #10 Tervuren AKC Top Dogs in Rally (by score), and #7 Tervuren Front & Finish Rally Combined Rating System.



*Kate Stephenson with Aslan
(Photo by Stacie Parks Photography)*

Send brags to clublicity@daytondogtraining.com. Don't forget to include your name, dog's call name and registered name if applicable, along with the title or honor achieved.

Browsing the Web

Lyme disease in Ohio

Lyme disease is caused by an infection with a bacterium called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. In Ohio, *B. burgdorferi* is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected [blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*](#).

Lyme disease is zoonotic and can affect dogs as well as humans. Cases are increasing in Ohio as the range of blacklegged tick populations continues to expand in the state and encounters with this tick occur more frequently, particularly in brushy areas and forest habitats. There have been 77 cases in the state so far in 2020, one each in Montgomery, Clark, Darke, and Warren counties, three each in Hamilton and Clermont counties, and the bulk of cases in the east central part of the state.

The Ohio Department of Health has a Lyme disease primer at <https://tinyurl.com/y6m4ebpj>.

Dogs could be early warning system for human health

With more than 360 diseases that affect both animals and people, scientists are probing methods of identifying human manifestations of some diseases before they become obvious. One study used dogs as an early warning system. Researchers from North Carolina State University and Duke University used silicone devices to monitor environmental exposures in dogs and humans. Article is at <https://tinyurl.com/yaqozdw5>; the study is at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.9b06605>.

Breed-specific info on benefits and drawbacks of sterilization

A new study from Benjamin Hart DVM , PhD et al at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine presents breed-specific findings outlining the pros and cons of spay or neuter surgery for 35 breeds of dogs.

The study examined the occurrence in both sexes of hip and elbow dysplasia, cruciate ligament disease and several cancers; mammary gland cancers, pyometra, and urinary incontinence in female dogs; and intervertebral disc disorders in the Corgi and Dachshund, two breeds known to be at risk for these diseases. All of the above diseases were examined with regard to dogs neutered in one of several age ranges or left intact and were tracked until the dogs were last seen at the hospital, or through 11 years of age if last seen past their twelfth birthday.

The study includes summaries of these diseases in each breed along with recommendations for age of neutering or spaying. It can be found at *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, <https://tinyurl.com/y9ytfu6m>.

Penn Vet launches COVID-19 canine scent detection study

A pilot training program using scent detection dogs to discriminate between samples from COVID-19 positive and COVID-19 negative patients is the focus of a new research initiative at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine.

With up to 300 million smell receptors – compared to six million in humans – dogs are uniquely positioned to aid in disease detection. This pioneering study sets the stage for dogs to be a force multiplier in the mission to detect COVID-19, particularly among asymptomatic patients or in hospital or business environments where testing is most challenging. Preliminary screening of live humans by trained dogs could begin as early as July.

See the complete article at <https://tinyurl.com/ychfp7nt>.



Lucy conducts scent detection training at the Penn Vet Working Dog Center

Researchers in Britain work on heartworm vaccine

A new study focused on developing a novel vaccine for heartworm may turn out to be a significant step forward in combatting this deadly parasitic infection.

Scientists at the University of Liverpool are identifying key proteins as the basis for a canine heartworm vaccine. If successful, the vaccine could provide protection against heartworm disease and help combat the growing threat of drug resistance to preventive heartworm medications. At least one million dogs in the US are infected annually with heartworm disease, and cases seen in veterinary clinics have increased by more than 20 percent since 2016. The work is funded by the Morris Animal Foundation. For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y8jyj8jm>.

The amazing world of the canine gut microbiome

Morris Animal Foundation

The microbiome is a diverse collection of microscopic organisms that share our living space (and our bodies). Once viewed as freeloaders or, worse yet, potential invaders, scientists now know that these organisms play a critical role in maintaining good health. These roles include many jobs our bodies do daily, from helping fend off dangerous pathogens and digesting food, to influencing inflammation in the body and even brain function.

Our dogs have their own microbiome and we are learning more about how their microscopic companions influence health and disease. More and more studies suggest that the composition of the gut microbiome can have a profound effect on overall health – and not just in the gastrointestinal tract. Numerous studies in people have demonstrated that many diseases appear to be influenced by microorganisms inhabiting the gut, including autoimmune disease, mental disorders and cancer, and the list keeps growing. Veterinary scientists are just beginning to look at whether the gut microbiome has similar effects in dogs.

To read the entire article, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybjylk3l>.

Dogs can help archaeologists in the field

The work dogs do to aid human progress has expanded again with the use of dogs to find human remains at archaeological sites throughout the world. This novel use of the canine sense of smell began in 2015 when a Croatian archaeologist teamed up with a dog trainer who used specialized cadaver dogs to help sniff out cold cases for police and find mass graves. The dogs found six graves at a dig site that were buried in the eighth century BC.

The dogs may have accomplished their task by sniffing out a fatty acid developed in the decomposition process or by scenting a compound called an ester that is present in animal fat. For details, see “Archaeology dogs can help scholars sniff out the past” at <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/how-dog-noses-help-archaeologists>.

How old is your dog in human years?

Researchers at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine have developed a formula to calculate a dog’s age in human years in an effort to study aging in both species. The formula provides a genetic clock, a method to determine age based on natural chemical modifications that influence gene expression. The formula may provide a useful tool for veterinarians and as an aid in evaluating anti-aging products and medications. For more information, see “How old is your dog in human years?” at <https://health.ucsd.edu/news/releases/Pages/2020-07-02-how-old-is-your-dog-in-human-years.aspx>.



Quotes



Happiness is a warm puppy.
— Charles M. Schulz

The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too.
— Samuel Butler

A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.
— Josh Billings

Dogs have given us their absolute all. We are the center of their universe. We are the focus of their love and faith and trust. They serve us in return for scraps. It is without a doubt the best deal man has ever made.
— Roger A. Caras

No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you feel rich.
— Louis Sabin

Old dogs, like old shoes, are comfortable. They might be a bit out of shape and a little worn around the edges, but they fit well.
— Bonnie Wilcox

In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog.
— Edward Hoagland

Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love, they depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog. It merely expands the heart.
— Author Unknown

Some of our greatest historical and artistic treasures we place with curators in museums; others we take for walks.
— Roger A. Caras

I have found that when you are deeply troubled, there are things you get from the silent devoted companionship of a dog that you can get from no other source.
— Doris Day

Fall in love with a dog, and in many ways you enter a new orbit, a universe that features not just new colors but new rituals, new rules, a new way of experiencing attachment.
— Caroline Knapp

Legislative Report

Submitted by Norma Bennett Woolf, Ohio Valley Dog Owners

Ohio HB 33

HB 33, a bill that requires veterinarians and other professionals to report suspected cases of animal abuse, passed the Ohio House on June 11 and was scheduled for its first hearing in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in late July for further consideration.

HB 33 requires veterinarians, police officers, dog wardens, deputy dog wardens, and social service professionals responsible for protective services to report suspected violations of animal cruelty law as part of their duties if they have reasonable cause to believe a violation has or is continuing to occur. It also allows the veterinary licensing board to take action if a veterinarian fails to do so. Reports must be made in good faith, and the bill includes provisions for awards of attorney fees and costs if the complaint is unfounded.

Representative Sara Carruthers of Hamilton and Representative Laura Lanese of Grove City sponsored the bill.

HB 33 and supporting documents are at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA133-HB-33>.

Ohio HB 67

HB 67, a bill that sets up a tuition reimbursement system for veterinarians who use their profession to conduct charitable work for animals, also passed the Ohio House on June 11 and proceeds to the Senate for hearings and a vote.

HB 67 began life as a bill to allow veterinary continuing education credits for vets who perform free spay/neuter services. Sponsors Representative Tom Brinkman of Anderson Township and Representative Brigid Kelly of Cincinnati originally identified the bill as an incentive to veterinarians to help curb euthanasia in the state's animal shelters. This approach failed in the previous legislative session, and the bill was amended this time to broaden its scope.

HB 67 now

- Creates the Veterinarian Student Debt Assistance Program to repay all or part of any educational loans taken out by a veterinarian while in veterinary college.
- Establishes eligibility requirements for program applicants, including a requirement that an applicant, prior to applying, must perform specified charitable veterinarian services.
- Requires the Board to select, via a lottery, applicants for participation in the program.

- Specifies requirements for veterinarians to apply to the program.
- Requires those veterinarians selected via the lottery to sign a letter of intent and then enter into a contract with the Board for participation in the two-year program.
- Provides funding for the program from amounts credited to the Occupational Licensing Regulatory Fund.
- Requires the Board to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly describing the operations of the program during the previous biennium.

Among the requirements for application to the program is participation in a range of charitable work that includes spay and neuter programs but also covers other charitable activities performed for shelters, law enforcement agencies, or government agencies at the local, state, or federal level. For example, the annual free health checks offered to law enforcement dogs would qualify under the bill's language.

The bill passed the House on June 10 and was sent to the Senate for hearings in that chamber. HB 67 and its supporting documents are available at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA133-HB-67>.

NAIA, AKC support import bill

About 20 years ago, the National Animal Interest Alliance began reporting on unregulated dog imports, some commercially bred in countries with lax health and vaccination standards and many strays from the streets of foreign countries. AKC joined the effort, but getting action from the federal government was a struggle. By 2018, more than one million dogs were entering the US each year, some carrying diseases such as rabies, dog flu, brucellosis, and various tick-borne disorders. These massive imports spawned a retail rescue phenomenon with new groups and established shelters bringing dogs in and adopting them out almost immediately, often for high prices to unsuspecting buyers looking to rescue a pet.

Finally, the campaign by NAIA and AKC paid off in May when three veterinarians in Congress introduced the Healthy Dog Import Act of 2020.

Known as HR 6921, the Healthy Dog Importation Act would require every dog entering the country be in good health, permanently identified, certified by an approved veterinarian in the country of origin to prevent fraudulent paperwork, and carry records showing that it has received all the proper vaccinations. Those entering the country for resale, transfer, or donation must be at least six months of age and accompanied by a USDA import permit. The bill would also streamline and coordinate federal oversight, ensuring documentation and import permits are shared electronically between APHIS, CDC, and Customs and Border Patrol, while clarifying APHIS' key enforcement authority.

Bill sponsors are veterinarians Congressman Abraham of Louisiana, Congressman Schrader of Oregon, and Congressman Yoho of Florida.

When announcing introduction of the bill, AKC president and CEO Dennis Sprung said, "In the last several years, zoonotic diseases such as rabies, canine influenza and distemper have been carried into the US by dogs imported without basic veterinary checks or valid health certificates. With an estimated one million dogs entering the U.S. annually, this represents a ticking time bomb for animal and public health. The basic health certifications that this bill requires for every dog imported will protect the health and wellbeing of all dogs in our nation - and the humans who care for them."

NAIA's Patti Strand noted that the success of spay and neuter programs has eliminated the problem of dog overpopulation in many regions of the United States. "The vast majority of US dogs are now spayed or neutered, and fewer dogs are born in the US each year. At the same time, demand for dogs has increased, outstripping US supply and leading to the import of dogs from all over the world."

Both AKC and NAIA urge voters to contact their representatives and support HR 6921 to stop the flood of unhealthy dogs pouring into the US each year.

USDA-APHIS update: overview of new animal care rules

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service finally announced Animal Welfare Act changes aimed at promoting compliance, reducing license fees, and strengthening safeguards to prevent individuals and businesses with a history of noncompliance from obtaining a license or working with regulated animals. Set to take effect on November 9, the final rule also includes changes to the veterinary care and watering standards for regulated dogs.

Under consideration for nearly three years, the new rules require that dogs receive continuous access to potable water, unless restricted by the facility's attending veterinarian. They also require that dealers* and exhibitors** establish and maintain an adequate program of veterinary care, including regular veterinary visits, an annual hands-on examination; vaccinations for rabies, parvovirus, distemper, and other diseases; and husbandry requirements to help ensure healthy eyes, skin, nails, hair, and teeth; and to make veterinary records available for inspection.

In addition, annual license renewals will no longer occur. Instead, licensees must apply for a new license every three years, notify APHIS if they add or subtract animals or make changes in business operations and will face revocation of a license to operate if they violate the rules.

For more information, see the complete analysis by AKC at <https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/usda-aphis-update-overview-new-animal-care-rules/>.

* USDA dealers are commercial kennels that breed puppies for sale as pets; these regulations do not apply to show, performance, and preservation dog breeders who also sell puppies as pets.

** In USDA-speak, exhibitors are zoos, animal acts, circuses with animals, dolphin acts, etc. Hobby exhibitors are exempt.

Pet Sympathy / Sunshine Report

If you have a Pet Sympathy/Sunshine item, please contact Mary Savage (cliff414@frontier.com, 937-836-5280).

Pet Sympathy

“Rafferty” — Timbar Full Moon’s Bibbety Bobbety Blue CGC (Rough Collie)
Barbara Bateson

“Payton” — HB Linmark’s Payton Place, BN, RAE, OAP, OJP, THD, SCN, SIN, CGC, SEN, SCA, SBN, SWN, SIA, Achiever Dog (Golden Retriever)
Mark & Linda Bingman

“Jet” (Golden Retriever)
Mary Jo DeBrosse

“Cody” (Golden Retriever)
Mary Jo DeBrosse

“Zeke” (Border Collie)
Mary Jo DeBrosse

“Basil” — CH Wingazen A Dare For Jessarae CGC (Papillon)
Jessica Isenbarger

“Abby” (English Springer Spaniel)
Sue Morgan

“Belle” — Imagineer’s With Bells On PT STDs OA OAJ (Australian Shepherd)
Dennis & Mary Ellen Steinke

“Quest” — BasqueLaine Bold Venture (Belgian Tervuren)
Kate Stephenson

Deaths

Carroll “Dean” Hayes
Father-In-Law of Lucy Hayes

Sunshine

Bill Parrill
Maryanne Ryno Vrabel
Gina Wyatt

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