

October 2023



BARKS FROM

President's Message

Happy Fall, Y'all!!! I wanted to start by saying 'Thank You, Thank You, Thank You' to all the club members who came out and supported our big show.....it is only by working together that we can make the magic work. Many hands are the key to all of our activities. While the September Point Show needs 'all hands on deck', it is important to remember that this is but 1 event and 1 way we all need to work together to keep our club viable and thriving. We have our 2nd show coming up quickly in December and though we don't need quite as many people to help, we still need help as I'm sure Denise has outlined in this Barks so I won't reiterate here.

What I will say, though, is that the point shows, while critical to our future, are just 2 events and the club needs to run for the rest of the year and for that it needs each and everyone one of you. Our membership is small and the number of people actively working for the club throughout the year is much smaller. We have the same small handful of people giving of their time by serving on the board, chairing a committee, serving on a committee, bringing a speaker or snack for meetings, all of these things and more are what the club needs. I've heard from the nominating committee that they asked member after member and the 'no's' to serving on the board were numerous. In addition, we have committees that have no chairs and when asked to even help on a committee we hear mostly silence. We cannot sustain the club and its activities by not allowing those who have served year after year to take a much needed break to take care of their lives too.

Please take a moment to consider what this club means to you and the Berks County Dog Community, our club helps youngsters with scholarships and numerous dog organizations throughout the years. Think also about how you can help. I wrote an email after the point show a few years ago, practically begging the young people in the dog show community to think about the future of our sport and to join clubs to help ensure we have a future. So while thinking about what you can do for the club, also look around you at other local folks (of any age), but the younger ones are really needed if we are to keep going past the next few years.

So, message delivered and with that said, here are a few of the open positions, sthe new chairsome have been opened for a long time and some are new:

All About Dogs Day - needs a chair or 2 co-chairs. The outgoing chair has said she will help the new team to get started and ensure they know what is needed.

Handling Classes - we need someone to chair this committee

Seminars - we are looking to do 2 events in 1 day (1 on Canine CPR and 1 with a Canine Chiropractor) - need someone to chair this committee

That's the big ones for now. Please consider your participation and share your time with your club.

Hope you all also saw the email about our yearly Christmas Party being the last Wednesday in November at 7PM instead of our regular meeting week due to a conflict with our December Point Show. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Thanks,
Cheryl

From the Editor

Please submit items for Barks, including brags, to ClancyPBGV@gmail.com by December 10. I'm happy to include photos as space permits if they are submitted in JPG format. All submissions must be electronic and formatted to allow for copying and pasting.

-Submitted by Megan Esherick

Calendar of Events:

10/18 7 pm therapy dogs at Berks Heim
11/1 General Meeting
11/29 General Meeting
12/6 Show in Oaks
12/10 Barks Deadline

Breeder Referral -- Referral for a Boxer breeder & referral for a Toy/Mini Poodle breeder

Sunshine -- nothing

TV show -- Oct show was highlights of the point show. November will be Christine Kitsch & her Rhodesian Ridgebacks.

All About Dogs Day -- looking for another chair. I have all the info & contacts addys on my computer & can fwd to whomever would like to chair. Will also be available to co-chair if needed.

- Submitted by Pat Mock



New applicant for membership

Christine Ahrens of Oley. She has 3 Vizslas and also belongs to Keystone Vizsla. She is interested in learning and is sponsored by Barbara McGlaughin and Christine Kitsch.

- Submitted by Judy Swanson

ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUPS LOBBYING TO RESTRICT DOG BREEDERS - CONTACT CONGRESS NOW!

Animal rights/ "protection" groups are actively lobbying Congress to restrict and limit the activities of dog breeders. They are making unsupported claims that there are "tens of thousands of puppy mills" in the United States, and asking members of Congress to advance arbitrary, one-size-fits-all mandates that could require small hobby breeders to place their dogs in industrial, commercial-style kennels and undermine quality breed-based care. Though labeled as commercial breeding regulations, the one-size-fits-all requirements also apply to some small hobby breeders.

YOUR ACTION IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO STOP THE ANIMAL-RIGHTS SUPPORTED PUPPY PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 1624) AND GOLDIES ACT (H.R. 1788).

Below you will find talking points and more information on how to contact your lawmakers.

The Puppy Protection Act (H.R. 1624) Establishes Government Mandates That:

Prohibit the breeding of a female dog:

- Unless pre-screened by a veterinarian. No specific details are provided on what the screening would involve or who would make these decisions.
- Based arbitrarily on the age and size of the dog.
- If it would produce more than two litters in an 18-month period.

Additional arbitrary requirements include but are not limited to:

- Mandates "unfettered access" from dogs' primary enclosures to an outdoor exercise area large enough that it "allows dogs to extend to full stride". This would create a potentially dangerous environment for multiple dogs that do not get along, accidental breedings, other poor animal management practices, etc.
- Mandated annual dental exams.
- Mandated indoor space sufficient to allow the tallest dog in an enclosure to stand on his or her hindlegs without touching the roof of the enclosure. For family dogs that live in their owner's homes, a primary enclosure may be considered the dog's sleeping crate.
- Prohibition on the keeping of dogs in enclosures above 85 degrees or below 45 degrees F, regardless of breed or acclimation needs for dogs that hunt, sled, detect explosives, or do other work and thrive in cooler temperatures, or that must be acclimated to cooler or warmer temperatures for their safety.
- Completely solid flooring, despite scientific recognition that multiple types of high-quality flooring, including engineered slatted flooring, is beneficial in certain types of kennels and with certain breeds.

Why This is a Problem:

While some portions of the measures include reasonable generalized guidelines for canine care, arbitrary requirements that ignore best practices for individual outcomes are not appropriate for federal mandates. One-size-fits-all requirements do not take into account the broad range of breeds and types of dogs, or best health and breeding practices. They also do not allow for creative approaches that permit expert breeders and owners to provide optimal care for their individual dogs and advance the art and science of responsible dog breeding. Arbitrary restrictions can be expensive and undermine small hobby breeding programs because of an overly-broad definition of "breeding female" that impacts who is subject to federal requirements.

To learn more, see and share:

[Proposal Would Undermine Animal Welfare](#), DC Journal, April 20, 2023

[Breeder Expertise, Thoughtful Analysis Demonstrate Dangerous Flaws in 'Feel Good' Dog Law.](#)



Goldie's Act (HR 1788) Establishes Government Mandates that:

- Redefine AWA violations and undermine priority for the care and wellbeing of animals by removing a distinction between care and welfare (direct) violations and paperwork/ non-welfare related(indirect) violations. While zero violations of any rules or laws should be the goal, the care and well being of animals must always be a priority. Reporting paperwork errors in the same manner as care violations also creates a misleading perception about breeder licensees and creates a new target for animal extremists who use those public databases to identify breeders.
- Require inspectors to destroy or remove an animal if they believe it is in suffering psychological harm – a term the bill does not define. The bill does not determine how “psychological harm” would be determined or by whom. This creates an environment for abuse and unnecessary euthanasia of animals.
- State the intent to expand enforcement of federal breeder licensing requirements, but in fact throw out recent enforcement enhancements currently in the middle of a 3-year implementation process. Instead of improving enforcement of the AWA, it creates confusing and onerous new mandates, and undermines recently established enforcement efforts. Constantly changing arbitrary rules create a confusing, expensive, and potentially harmful environment for animal care in which neither licensees nor regulators may be certain of requirements.

Who This Applies To:

Anyone subject to USDA breeder/dealer licensing. Breeders are subject to USDA licensing if they maintain more than 4 “breeding females” (a term that is undefined but is generally considered to mean an intact female) and transfer even one of the offspring “sight unseen”. “Breeding females” include any combination of cats, dogs, or other small pet mammals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, etc.

PLEASE ACT TODAY!



Your member of Congress needs to hear from you. **Please call, email, or write to your member of Congress today.** Visit AKC's Legislative Action Center (www.akcgr.org) and type your address in the “Find Your Elected Officials” box to [find out who represents you and get their contact information.](#)

Tell them:

1. Ask them to oppose the **Puppy Protection Act (H.R. 1624)** and **Goldies Act (H.R. 1788)** because their one-size-fits-all mandates undermine animal wellbeing and enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. These bills are “feel good” proposals developed without the experience and scientific expertise of breeder experts. The one-size-fits-all requirements fail to recognize the diversity of licensees and the types or breeds of dogs impacted and could harm to some dogs.
2. Explain you are a constituent. Respectfully share your experience and concerns as a dog owner/breeder/expert and based on the talking points above. Breeders: Relying on your experience, explain in practical terms how the new mandates could adversely impact your breeding program.
3. Ask them to not support advancing the Puppy Protection Act or Goldie's Act out committee or in the Farm Bill. Tell them, despite claims being made by AR groups, these bills do impact responsible small breeders.
4. Ask them to instead support additional financial resources for USDA so they can appropriately enforce the requirements they already have.
5. If you can, let the AKC GR team (doglaw@akc.org) know you contacted your lawmakers and if you received any response.

Senate Agriculture Committee Members



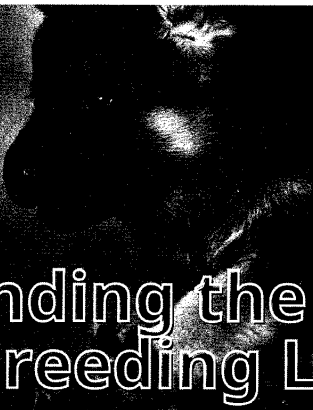
House Agriculture Committee Members

For questions or more information, contact doglaw@akc.org, visit AKC's Legislative Action Center www.akcgr.org or contact 919-816-3720.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACTION TO PROTECT THE FUTURE OF OUR BREEDS AND THE INTEGRITY OF RESPONSIBLE, EXPERT BREEDERS. YOUR VOICE DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**



Understanding the Facts of Dog Breeding Laws

The American Kennel Club (AKC) supports strong enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including new rules currently part of a 3-year implementation process set for completion in fall 2024.

Animal rights/protection groups are seeking to place new laws impacting hobby breeders in the 2023 Farm Bill; AKC believes existing rules governing breeders should be fully implemented and assessed before adding new, confusing and overly-restrictive laws.

Responsible dog breeders are experts on breeding and often have decades of practical and scientific experience. Stakeholders with experience in animal husbandry, including representatives from some of the 5000 AKC clubs around the country, should be consulted during the legislative process. By contrast, animal protection organizations that seek to limit pet breeding typically have little scientific knowledge or practical knowledge or experience with animal husbandry.

AKC believes appropriate care that considers the purpose, characteristics and needs of the animal should always be the priority.

Laws governing dog ownership and breeding should be reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory. This is why AKC opposes HR 1462 as introduced and urges Congress to not advance these bills or allow them to be added to the Farm Bill.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!



919-816-3720



www.akcgr.org



doglaw@akc.org

\$4M Increase



AKC SUPPORTS INCREASED AWA FUNDING

From FY 2019 – FY 2023 the USDA's budget for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) remained static, despite increasing program demands. AKC supported an increase of \$4M for AWA enforcement in FY 2023 and continues to support additional resources to ensure that the AWA is properly enforced.



STATES ALREADY HAVE FELONY CRUELTY LAWS

All 50 U.S. states already have felony cruelty laws. Thankfully, cases of animal cruelty to dogs are rare, which is why they sometimes make the news. In cases where such activities do occur, current laws should be fully enforced.



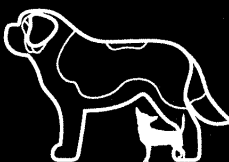
1.2 M DOGS IMPORTED INTO THE US EVERY YEAR

The annual replacement rate for pet dogs in the U.S. is 8 million/year. U.S. breeders cannot meet this demand for pet dogs. According to the CDC, approximately 1.2 million pet dogs were imported into the U.S. in 2019, primarily for the rescue retail and retail markets.* Overly restrictive regulations undermine the flexibility needed for quality regulated pet breeding programs and incentivizes production of pets in overseas markets, where welfare laws do not exist.



MANY HOBBY BREEDERS ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO COMMERCIAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Dog owners and hobby breeders who have any combination of 5 intact female mammals (rabbits, cats, hamsters, gerbils, dogs, etc.) and transfer one offspring sight unseen are subject to federal licensing and regulation as a commercial breeder. A person could own only one dog and have one litter and still be subject to federal USDA licensing and kenneling requirements for commercial dog breeder/dealers.



DOGS ARE THE MOST DIVERSE SPECIES OF MAMMAL

From the tiny Chihuahua to the massive Saint Bernard, dogs are the most diverse species of land mammal. Their requirements for temperatures, housing, exercise, food, etc. vary. The one-size-fits-all rules in the "Puppy Protection Act" (HR 1642) would undermine small, high quality specialized breeding programs.



WHAT QUALIFIES AS 'PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM'?

Goldie's Law (HR 1788) requires USDA inspectors to destroy or remove a dog from its home if they believe it is experiencing "psychological harm"; but the proposal doesn't define what this means. It also de-prioritizes the care and wellbeing of dogs by removing the distinction between care and paperwork violations.

* Demographic replacement rate; 2019, the last year for which data is available

A Message from your Point Show Chair:

“Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well” - Voltaire

First and foremost, I would like to offer sincere gratitude to all show committee chairs, assistants, club members, and volunteers who were brave enough to join me on my maiden voyage that was the point show. Forgive me for my cliché but that ship could not have sailed without your support. Thank you all.

As a first time Show Chair, I am acutely aware that there is always room for improvement. So I am asking for your help to make things better, smoother, and more organized for next year. If you have any comments or suggestions feel free to email them to me and I'll do my best to take all into consideration for future shows. In addition, we are always looking for suggestions for judges for future shows.

Update on vintage trophies: I know that there was some concern this year that we did not display the beautiful silver trophies which are kept in glass and wood cases. As sometimes happens with items in storage, one of the cases is badly broken and needs to be fixed or replaced. There is charm and beauty, memories and history in old things. Trophies such as these are a treasure and we need to treat them with the respect they deserve. Therefore we decided that rather than do a partial display and/or use the one that was broken, we would pursue getting the damage repaired or replaced, and then have a complete and spectacular display for next year.

The Show Committee currently has a vacancy for a Trophy Chair. This person is responsible for purchasing and/or obtaining donations for trophies presented at the Point Shows. If you have questions or interest in this position please contact me via email. Thank you for considering using your time and talent to help our club.

Our December Point Show will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 as part of the Winter Blast Cluster at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center. Since I will be out of the country for approximately three weeks and unable to be at the General Meeting in November, our Assistant Show Chair Ann Marie Monastero will be asking for volunteers to man the club table selling catalogues, handing out New Title Rosettes, selling raffle tickets, answering questions, and spreading good will to everyone at the show. A catered lunch will be provided for all club volunteers. It is always a bit chilly in the building, after all it is the “Winter Blast” Cluster, so you may want to layer a long sleeved shirt under your club polo shirt. Help is also needed on Sunday after the show as all participating clubs are required to provide man (or woman) power for clean-up.

See you in Oaks!
Sincerely,
Denise Hileman
BCKC Show Chair

The Board met and would like to collect items from our members for Berks Animal Rescue League. Please bring your items to the Christmas Party which will be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7pm.

Here are items that they need:

- **Canned kitten, cat, and dog food** For kittens and cats, we prefer non-seafood varieties, please.
- **Dry kitten, cat, and dog food** To prevent upset tummies, we prefer Purina and Iams brands. Please check the label and make sure the food does not have any artificial dye or color.
- **Soft dog treats** Our pups love treats like Beggin' Strips, Pup-Peroni, Bil-Jac, Zukes, etc.
- **Spray cheese and peanut butter**
- **Cat litter**
- **Breeder's Edge Foster Care Feline**— Powdered Milk Replacer- for Kittens & Cats
- **Cat toys & durable dog toys** *Cardboard cat scratchers* are always needed, as are feather wands, balls and catnip-filled toys! For dogs, we love to have a steady supply of Nylabones, Kongs and snuffle mats for them to play with daily!
- **Kuranda beds** These comfy and sanitary beds for pets allow them to relax comfortably in their kennels. Learn more [HERE](#).
- **Bleach and laundry detergent** High Efficiency preferred
- **Large and extra-large pop-up crates for dogs**
- **Money! Your dollar donations allow us to buy what we need when we need it!** Please consider donating by clicking [here](#).

Member Brags and Bitches

From Megan Esherick:

CH Clancy's Mischief Managed RE MX AXJ XF T2B SWA SHDA RATN DCAT PCSH CGCU TKA (Ginny, PBGV) was Best of Winners and Best of Breed Owner Handled at the Somerset Hills KC show for a 5 point major and Winners and Best of Breed Owner Handled at the Berks Co KC show for a 4 point major to finish her championship.



From Dave Esherick:

MACH5 Rainyday's Singapore Silk Torpedo CD BN RAE MXG2 MJC2 T2B5 MFS SWM SHDE HSA-s FCAT CA RATCH THDE CGCA (Silk, Australian Shepherd) finished her MACH5 title on September 4 at the Westmoreland OTC trial.

