Dear Dog Fancier,

“These are the times that try men's souls." - Thomas Paine in 1776

These are the times that try dog owner’s souls. Whether you are a breeder, compete in a performance event, hunt, work with a dog to protect and serve, are relying on a dog to guide you, be your ears, be your aide, find a lost child, seek a body to bring closure to a family, be your training buddy for a marathon or your best friend, all of this is under attack.

Regardless of our level of involvement in the world of dogs, we need to band together, put aside differences and work to save our hobbies, our lives, our freedoms. Though we may not agree with the ethics of the person down the street, maybe you are a vegetarian and abhor hunting, maybe you do not see the purpose in conformation shows or you feel that people who are in performance events are too intense, whatever, we still need to put our differences aside else we all lose our freedoms to even own a companion. If you are still not convinced, your head is in the sand.

In the past decades, groups have called for bans on many areas of dog ownership and work. With hunter’s rights challenged, herding, a modified hunt at its essence, may be next. Many Animal Rights organizations feel breeders are the cause of all the ills in dogs. They spout incorrect genetic data, debunked by people such as the late Dr. G. Padgett. They try to enact laws that will restrict all breeding, including service dogs. These groups wish to take away “free market” and allow the people to decide the source of their next dog. Again, once one group looses their rights, yours are at greater risk.

There are organizations that are educating regarding the dangers these Animal Rights groups pose to all areas of animal ownership. Humane Watch is a website by Consumer Freedom, www.humanewatch.org, which is very educational. Then there is the outstanding National Animal Interest Alliance, www.naiaonline.org, that all animal enthusiasts should strongly consider joining.

Please, do not be silent anymore. Whether you be a breeder, hunter, exhibitor, police officer, soldier, if you work your dog or with a dog in any capacity, if you enjoy various sports with your dogs, if you just wish to be able to own the dog of your choice from the source of your choice, you need to act. You must act!

Education is better than legislation. However, these Animal Rights Groups are taking away even the right to educate so people have freedom of choice.

Let us work together to prevent this from happening. While we are at it, we need to band together with the fanciers of other species as their rights are at risk as well.