

Political Vigilance: or we lose our dogs

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Fauquier County, VA passed a law deeming breeders as home-based businesses. Fairfax County is looking at a law that will negatively affect good breeders. At this time, Washington, DC is considering oppressive laws that will allow any person with any humane group the ability to enter your home and take your pet should they assume cruelty. Oh yes, there is also a provision making it impossible to own an intact animal for any reason. This is all within a few miles of my house.

Why is this being done? Simple, the hardcore Animal Rights movements whose ultimate agenda is to end the “enslavement” of all domestic animals are gaining ground. They lump all breeders into the puppy mill category. Even attempting the argument that some breeding is done for great things such as service dogs for the disabled does not sway them. All breeders are bad regardless of the motives. ARs claim to be targeting the average pet owner or irresponsible person, but everyone is affected. Ironically, pet shops and brokers have a big loophole.

Even if you do not hunt, show in conformation or performance, breed, etc., those in the dog world must be vigilant and watch what is going on in local and state politics. There is no excuse for not trying to keep abreast on what is going on. There are not enough of us fighting for the rights of the masses. There are not enough of us trying to educate regarding better dog breeding and the lengths good breeders go to prevent puppies produced from being used for breeding by the average owner. There are not enough of us pushing for education as opposed to legislation.

Good breeders are a dying breed here. Back Yard Breeders, for profit breeders (think mills and designer mutt breeders) and just irresponsible dog owners failing to alter pets are all put into the same category as those of you breeding seriously for the betterment of any breed! You are seen as the ultimate evil perpetuating inbred messes that can only look good and not be good.

All over the country these laws are being passed. It is up to us to break the image the AR fanatics are building of all breeders and exhibitors. It is up to us to become proactive as opposed to reactive. Be in contact with your local and state government. Most proposed animal laws would be listed under the Department of Agriculture in most state governments. For your local government, keep in contact with your elected officials, find out what meeting agendas are and email them, even if there is nothing proposed as there will be, to educate about the dangerous of restrictive breeding and mandatory altering laws. Instead try suggestions such as incentives for altering (tax deductions) that may be better received. Let them know how much dog events bring into a community and that if your community passes such laws, shows may pull out.

Political Vigilance is vital or in a short few years, our beloved pets and working companions will be a memory.