

FEDERATION MEMBERS:

OUR ANNUAL MEETING IS AT THE MAURY CO KC SHOW ON MARCH 21 AFTER BEST IN SHOW. WE WILL TRY TO USE THE ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

This has been a busy time on the legislative front. The session Bill submission dates were late this year because of the change to Republican from Democrat control. Many of the bills were submitted on 2-11 or 2-12. There still is time to add more Bills before the cut off date.

I will be sending you a summary page from our Lobby firm that summarizes each dog-related bill. Some housekeeping on the Bills. You may see a reference to p1c or p2c. This indicates the first reading or second reading of a submitted bill. A bill must have 2 readings before being eligible to go to Committee.

S stands for Senate, and H stands for House.

Please review all of these below and the Summary being sent under separate cover. I need your feedback on how we proceed with each.

Jon,

I've attached my personal comments, which represent only my opinion. The chief concern I have is that HSUS was given the job of writing the legislation. To me, that makes the whole thing suspect, given their long-term goals. It also gives legitimacy to that organization which I feel they don't deserve. Personally, I think it should be scrapped entirely, and the job given to a task force which represents the legitimate animal interests in the state. The whole thing strikes me as so vague that I fear there is too much room for undesirable and punitive interpretations, depending upon whose ear is being whispered into, and by whom. It strikes me that the Atty. General, along with many of our lawmakers, need to be educated as to what are the real animal welfare groups, and which are the animal "rights" groups such as PETA/HSUS, and what their true agendas are.

Just my \$.02. I'll put your note on the ORKC blog, but don't know how many will read it in time, or even respond.

Bill Moore

SB0258/HB0386 s- 2-11 to C., I., & A Comm. H2-11 P1C.
Commercial Breeders Act.

This is the bill that a number of individuals are very excited about. As you may remember in the Jan 30 status report HSUS was ask by the Att. Gen of Tenn. to write a bill covering mass producing puppy operations which would fall under a Commercial Breeders Bill. We were asked to provide some thoughts providing protection for hobby breeders, hunt clubs, packs, herding groups. The original draft was sent to the AKC legal Dept and it came back as neutral positioning. The bill was given to the law writers and

several areas have been added on. Now with the changes the AKC is against the bill as written.

The organization needs to decide whether to try and amend the bill or not support it. No one is in favor of mega-mass producers, with substandard facilities for dogs or cats with the primary purpose of only making a fast buck.

THE SPONSERS ARE WILLING TO CLARIFY AND MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THIS PROPOSED BILL, BUT THE AMENDMENTS ARE GOING IN ON MONDAY 2-23. SO GIVE ME YOUR THOUGHTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Some areas of concern:

Sec 44-17-702 “Commercial breeder” means any person who possesses or maintains twenty (20) or more adult female dog in whole or part for the purpose of sale of their offspring as companion animals. Look at the wording in whole or part. Comments? The number 20? Comments?

Problems I have with this section: 1. What does in whole or part mean, really? That seems very ambiguous to me. Does it mean at any one time, or cumulatively? 2. What about dogs bred for competitions, such as conformation, tracking, etc., who also happen to be companion animals in their “off” hours? 3. The number 20 - I can see efforts to revise that to 10, then 5, and so on.

Sec 44-17-704 Possessing or maintaining 20-40- adult companion animals per year – five hundred dollars (\$500). Possible alternative –adult female animals.

Possessing or maintaining 41-75 adult companion animals per year – one thousand dollars (\$1000). As above

A boarding kennel could easily maintain many more than 20, as could a rescue or other operation not involved directly in the breeding and sale of dogs. It doesn't refer to dogs kept for breeding, but broadly includes all adult dogs.

Licenses shall not be issued to any commercial breeder who possesses or maintains more than seventy-five (75) unsterilized companion animals over the age of 6 months.

Alternative –unsterilized adult females over 12 months. What about the maximum number?

It seems rather arbitrary. If you're going to have licensing fees for commercial breeding operations, why set 75 as a limit. It seems arbitrary, once again, and leaves the door open for steady reduction in that number.

Renewal of licenses uses the same terminology as above adult companion animals. Alternative as above.

Sec 44-17-706 The applicant or the responsible officers of the applicant are of good moral character. The Ag Commissioner decides this? Omit?

Sec 44-17-714 States the commissioner has the authority to confiscate companion animals maintained in violation of this part and to enter into cooperative agreements with

local or federal animal welfare agencies or national humane organizations to house and provide for the humane treatment of such animals.

Concern here is the section “or national humane organizations” Thoughts?

The AKC is totally against this language.

This seems in line with the HSUS goal of stepping to the role of being the animal welfare police. I'm sure they see themselves in the position of being the only one to fill this slot. I think AKC is right.

Sec 44-17-711 talks about inspection at reasonable hours. What are Reasonable hours?

What about normal business hours?

What is reasonable for one person may not be for another, say who works full time and is at their employment during normal business hours. I don't see any provision for notifying the person to be inspected and working out a mutually agreeable time.

The bill is long, so if you need to go into the internet use www.legislative.state.tn.us and click on legislation. Put the bill number in the House and Senate version is a little different.