

# **FAKC Notes**

**July 2016**

## **FAKC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**This is an election year!!** It gives you an opportunity to meet with those running for office by attending "meet & greets", town hall meetings, public forums, debates and other public events. You can elicit opinions/attitudes from candidates on canine issues which will show them that these issues are important to you. Ask candidates policy questions rather than their opinions about specific organizations.

Some suggested questions:

1. Do you support the right to own and/or breed purebred dogs of one's choice?
2. Do you support limiting the number of animals someone can own?
3. Do you support the right to keep purebred dogs that are not spay and neutered?
4. Do you believe there is a pet overpopulation problem? If so, what do you believe is the cause and how would you resolve it?

**Make sure to let the candidates know that their positions on these issues will impact how you vote!**

Consider taking a few hours to stuff envelopes, answer phones, make calls or put up signs for candidates to show that responsible dog owners care about legislation and will support those who will protect their rights.

See you in Orlando at the FAKC Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 21, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the International Palms Resort, 6515 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819, 407-351-3500.

I look forward to meeting your club delegates,

Susan Smith

# POLITICS AND PUREBREDS

***History shows Presidents prefer purebred dogs but Animal Rights will destroy us unless we choose our leaders wisely in the 2016 election.***



April 2015 | TheDogPress.com  
[Col. Sam Harper,](#) Dogsport Reconnaissance

Fancy purebred or purpose-bred hunting, herding, protection, or stock dog, the future of dog ownership is dark unless we understand our past and can see where we're headed.

Not to be melodramatic (my daughter's favorite word this week) but after WWII took nearly half a million American lives, U.S. Military weaponry became so advanced that fewer than 100,000 soldiers were killed in the Persian Gulf War. Ten times more were wounded so what I'm saying is that a lot of us gave lives and limbs to protect your political freedom.

That includes your right to own the breed of your choice in whatever state you choose to live but I can see that ain't happening. Today's weapon is Legislation and ironically, it is the most deadly to our democracy. Me and my buddies are beginning to "get it" on this Animal Rights crap. We fought for freedom from oppression by other governments only to confront it right here at home.

A look at Presidential pets reveals a lot! I get that we're a long way from Abraham Lincoln and George Washington and most of today's politicians are a little fuzzy on the Constitution but I know a little something about military leaders.



You've probably seen it before but this Life Magazine photo of Willie... waiting to be shipped home with General George Patton's belongings, says something about bravery.

Like most in her generation, my kid didn't know Willie's story or that the General and his dog are military legends. I reckon it is among the greatest examples of the human-canine bond ever recorded. Gun-shy Willie, always at Patton's side, was like a magnifying glass

for his master's courage and determination. I don't know that much about dogs and next to nothing about Bull Terriers but somebody ought to do that story!

Since this is about politics, I'll risk mentioning that the current Commander In Chief has forced our top field Generals to retire. Makes me wonder if Patton would have accepted that?

I find it fitting that so many of our war-time commanders owned terrier breeds. Supreme Commander of Allied Forces, General Dwight Eisenhower had two Scottish Terriers and Telek made it to the White House as "The President's dog."

In fact, most American presidents had purebred dogs as presidential pets. I'd like to think there's something inherently strong willed about leaders who favored terriers. George Bush Jr. obviously loved his Scottie, I'm told he was used to being "on the arm" of the President. I decided to do a little research and had to laugh about this: "*Barney bit a journalist, while Teddy Roosevelt's bull terrier Pete literally tore the pants off the French ambassador, nearly causing an international incident.*" USNews.com



Using google to validate my memory I had to smile when I found two of the best articles in TheDogPlace.org. They had a whole section on politics that I found pretty enlightening. They even covered [Governor Romney tying his dog on top of the car](#) when the family went on vacation. I reckon dogs have endured worse to be near the people they love. Mrs. Romney is an accomplished horsewoman and the whole family loves animals but it was a dumb move politically speaking and needless to say, he didn't win the White House.



Here's one on [White House Pets](#) and there are other links in it. You might remember the scandal about President Lyndon Johnson pulling his beagles' ears. My daughter said it sounds like something a non-dog person would do trying to make it look like he had some special understanding of dogs.

We all have our favorite breed, dog story, and war story. One of the best articles I found was [Dogs In The Civil War](#) by Fred Lanting. I had some personal knowledge of some of our leaders but until I retired, I had no reason to connect politics with a man's taste in dogs. If you find it curious too, go to the [Politics Section](#) and learn so that you can spot the political agenda in 2016.

We used to joke that you could tell a lot about a man's character by what he drinks. I've learned that a man's choice of a "best friend" says much more. In these troubled times, we want a man with backbone, the courage to lead and the respect of the troops.

My daughter read this and pointed out I should have said "man or woman" to lead the country. I pulled rank on her. It stays as written.

### **NAIA Trust Expands with Hire of Animal Enthusiast Attorney**

NAIA Trust is excited to announce the addition of Sara Chisnell as the Legislative Director. Ms. Chisnell is a Michigan based attorney with an extensive background in animal law. Sara's role with NAIA Trust will focus on expanding state and federal outreach by promoting reasonable laws, policies and regulations to protect animals and the people who care for them.

Sara has successfully petitioned for moderate animal-related laws at a grassroots and national level. She was previously involved with NAIA through National Conferences and various legislative issues where she connected with NAIA President, Patti Strand. "One of Sarah's greatest assets is that she's an animal person. She's heavily involved in the animal world in all aspects of her life. This is an enormous strength when working with animal related legislation," Patti says of Sara.

Sara graduated from Otterbein College with a BA in Equine Science. She then went on to Michigan State University College of Law, where she focused on animal law. Sara spent nine years with the United Kennel Club (UKC) focusing on canine legislation. She also served as in-house counsel and the representative for pointing breeds. Ms. Chisnell is active in the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association, and regularly trains and tests her German Shorthaired Pointers in Hunting Retriever Club. She is passionate about canine performance sport, in particular dock diving. She also trains young horses in basic dressage for a Warmblood breeder.

Sara commented on her new role saying, "I'm very excited for this opportunity to use my education and background to help NAIA in its quest to promote animal welfare, while also protecting the rights and interests of those whose livelihoods are animals. The human-animal bond is a very important and primary part of my life; preserving it is essential. I consider myself quite lucky to have found a position so intricately entwined with my life's passion of both dogs and horses."

*NAIA Trust is a 501(c) (4) organization. The Mission of NAIA Trust is to promote the welfare of animals, strengthen the human-animal bond and safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners, enthusiasts and professionals through education, legislation and the courts.*

### **A MUCH NEEDED RERUN**

We did not succeed in persuading the Sarasota County Council into modifying the unfortunate animal control legislature that they passed in the spring. There were several reasons for the failure, among which were the presence of a very determined councilman who was determined to preserve what he sees as a good thing and the difficulty that the dog people had communicating with each other. We will have to regroup and try later when the council becomes more favorable. In the meanwhile, dog people in the area need to concentrate on electing councilors who are sympathetic to our cause and

retiring those who have drunk the wine of animal rights. And we should read again Ann Meyer's account about how the dog people of Lee County were able to get a similarly bad law entirely repealed. It can be done and the people of Sarasota can do it.

## THE STORY OF LEE COUNTY, FL ANIMAL ORDINANCE 14-04 OR WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS

I'll never forget the date, January 31, 2014. Checking my email I open one from Sarah Sprouse, AKC Legislative Liaison informing me of a County Commissioners' meeting on February 4 where they were going to vote on a new animal ordinance. In our world today nothing strikes terror in the heart of responsible breeders and owners of multiple dogs than reading an ordinance that will further restrict your rights to breed and to own while the ignorant, misinformed, and greedy continue to remain under the radar. Couple that with the righteous rants and raves of the animal activists against anyone wishing to breed, buy, or own a purebred animal and it becomes a matter of fighting for our right to do so.

For the next few days I took to social media. Facebook was never so welcoming especially in the form of Odalys Hayes, a Chow Chow breeder whom I have known for a long time. What I didn't know was how active she has been in the legislative arena of Miami and not only how knowledgeable but also how vocal. She attended the February 4 meeting, spoke and some commissioners thought she was a lobbyist. I also emailed the few members of our local dog club and other dog people I knew from living over 30 years in the community. I even formed an email list of these people rather than sending individual messages urging to attending upcoming meeting; and in addition, contacted local TV and radio stations. I was "mad as hell and not going to take it any more". The licensing fees were already outrageous and what was being proposed would be an even heavier burden and, in my opinion, a violation of our Second Amendment rights. (\$65.00 per unspayed/neutered dog as opposed to \$10-\$15 for one that is spayed/neutered).

February 4 dawned and I made the trek to the old courthouse and filled out my required speaker's card. The Commissioners meeting room was packed and I was pleased to see "dog" people that I hadn't seen for a long time. When it came time for public comment I was astounded at the number of people speaking. Each person had 3 minutes to express their opinion and those opinions, about evenly divided for and against the ordinance, went on for about three hours. In the end the ordinance was passed with a "sunset" clause which meant it would be revisited in a year. However, the Commissioners, also astounded at the number of people speaking, ordered the Director of Animal Services to set up a meeting with those parties who had not had any input in the ordinance content.

The essence of Ordinance 14-04 was as follows:

1. Mandatory Spay/Neuter on the 2<sup>nd</sup> pickup
2. Mandatory Microchipping (County Data Base Only)
3. Anti-Tethering (Everyone agreed this should not be done)
4. Breeder's Certificate
  - a. Cost unknown but usually \$150-200.00 in Palm Beach & Collier Counties.  
Some counties also require a business license which increases the cost.
  - b. Required if you have a litter or use your dog at stud
  - c. Allows site inspections by Animal Services qualifications of the inspector unknown.
  - d. Not having the certificate could result in your animals being confiscated.
5. Animal Services later admitted that this ordinance would be complaint driven.  
(neighbor vs neighbor)

After that meeting I called Sarah Spouse. We had a lengthy conversation regarding the ordinance. She informed me that letters had been sent to local breeders with no response. When I stated that I had not received one she told me the names had come from the inspections list. Of course these people would not complain. They would continue to stay under the radar. She shared with me emails that had been sent to our local club officers which had never been shared. Also there was a Vizsla breeder and his attorney that had been meeting with the LCAS Director since the previous May to no avail. Sarah put me in touch with him. It was a sad situation and a daunting task to organize an offensive. A few days later I sent an email to the few club members, my local puppy buyers, and the few dog people I knew informing them of the possible consequences. I urged them to share this information with anyone they knew would be interested and from this first Update Lee Alliance for Responsible Dog Ownership was born. A few days later I received a call from a news personality from the local Fox Radio station and a pet lover who was also concerned about the impact of the ordinance. A week after the meeting the Platinum Coast Cat Fanciers' Assoc. asked to join us and the name was changed to Lee Alliance for Responsible Dog & Cat Owners. This added a number of names to the ever growing email list which I kept supplied with news in a timely manner making suggestions to them as to what they could do to help.

By February 25 the Alliance Steering Committee was formed with two cat people, a representative from the local agility club, the obedience club, three from the all-breed club, Odalys Hayes, and the Vizsla breeder and his puppy buyer attorney who graciously offered his

conference room for our meetings. We immediately started reworking the ordinance wording. A few days later the NAIA with Patti Strand and her team of experts began offering their support and advice as well as the FAKC and the NAIA Trust of FL. This support gave us new confidence but we still had a very long way to go.

At the open meeting on March 16 the Animal Services Director arranged we were able to secure a meeting date with the Director. From our Steering Committee of 10 five of us began to sit down with her and present our rewording and the rationale for it. We met a number of times and every time we thought we were making progress the Director would throw us a curve demanding instant approval of changes she had made. By the end of March we had what we thought was an ordinance, while not perfect, it was one we could live with. We were told that it went to the county Attorney for approval for and was scheduled for the Commissioners May 20. Just before that date we found out the revised ordinance was pulled from the agenda and the Director fired. We were most disheartened since we were back to square one and did not know what happened. We continued to have Steering Committee meetings trying to seek a solution. Meanwhile the AR people were becoming more vocal especially in the media by calling for enforcement of Ordinance 14-04.

Fortunately by the middle of June the County Manager, Asst. Co. Manager, and the newly appointed Interim Director contacted all factions and set up individual meetings with them. At this point we found out that the AR people were going en masse to each commissioner demanding enforcement of the current ordinance. This helped us to determine our course of action. A notebook was compiled containing factual information about mandatory spay/neuter, value of breeders, FL law 828 one of the nation's strongest, opposition to the breeders' certificate, vaccination information, Nathan Winograd's Myths of Pet Overpopulation and NAIA's article – Animal Rights vs. Animal Welfare to name a few. We then set up meetings with each Commissioner, presented them with the notebook, outlined what it contained and discussed why 14-04 was not the answer. One commissioner who has been a public servant for a very long time suggested we return to a previous ordinance after we explained the FL Statute 828 already was more than sufficient. After reviewing the previous Ordinance 6-12 we presented our recommended changes to the Interim Director then we sat back and waited. We continued to attend any Commissioner meetings where there was a possibility to speak to the ordinance change and I also continued to send email updates. There were a total of 27.

Finally the December 2 agenda was published and the Ordinance was on it. After a number of people again speaking for and against 14-04 was repealed and replaced with the new ordinance that was much less specific and less punitive. Gone was mandatory spay/neutering, breeders' certificate, and mandatory microchipping. The zoning ordinance limiting the number of dogs is still on the books but no one seems concerned or ready to enforce that. Animal Services has been turned around by its new director with much less influence from the AR people. Another positive direction that has been taken is the formation of an Animal Services Advisory Board though it has yet to meet.

I have been told by a number of people that we have accomplished a marvelous thing and how did we do it. I have been surprised by this. It was just something that needed to be done to protect our rights. However, if I were to summarize a plan of action I would suggest the following:

1. KNOW your local law and how it pertains to your situation.
2. Do NOT think that you are immune. That is what a longtime breeder judge from Collier County told me. "They know we're here but it doesn't affect us." Big mistake.
3. Take the responsibility to spearhead a group of people that have the same concerns and form a Steering Committee. You can do it in this age of emails and social media.
4. Contact the Media—Radio, TV, and Newspaper urging their coverage.
5. Attend your City Council and/or County Commissioners' Meetings. It's very easy to look up the meeting times and agendas on the internet. Be prepared to speak with facts and not emotions. After my first speech I prepared a written statement that could be read within the 3 minute allotment.
6. Seek outside help. The CFA, TICA, NAIA, and AKC are wonderful resources that can offer legal expertise. They have been dealing with situations like this all over the country.
7. Above all act and speak rationally encouraging your group members to do the same. One commissioner told his secretary, "These ladies can come back any time but don't let those other ones in. (AR people)"

It was a very long 10 months while I put other things in my life on hold; but it has given me a great feeling of accomplishment and the knowledge and courage to do it again if I have to in order to protect my rights from the encroachment of big brother.

Ann Meyer/SIMBALI

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Please send your suggestions for topics of interest, questions, comments, other suggestions and articles for publication to:

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