

IaFed INFORMER

June, 2006

Iowa Federation of Animal Owners: Working to preserve your future as an animal owner!

Under the dedicated direction of our lobbyist, Jill Altringer, IaFed is persistently lobbying for the right to own and raise animals responsibly in Iowa. At the end of the 2006 legislative season, we feel positive about what we accomplished this year, and our state senators and representatives know us better. Below is a quick summary of the issues we worked on this past year.

Sales Tax Exemption on Inputs and Protection from Overzealous County Zoning Ordinances

IaFed initiated language that would have added canines from licensed facilities to the list of agriculture products and farm products in the Iowa Law. This language would have enabled these facilities to receive the same sales tax exemptions on inputs as other agriculture entities. It also would have given some protection from zoning ordinances if the facilities were located in agricultural zoned areas. The language received good support in both the House and the Senate. We worked hard at the Governor's office in support of our language. We very much appreciated everyone that called in to ask the governor to sign this bill. We were disappointed that Governor Vilsack line item vetoed our language out of the bill. Our language received great opposition from the animal rights community. They were very upset and tried to say that we were making dogs livestock and removing regulations for their care; we were encouraging the eating of dogs; and we were promoting using dog furs for clothing! We simply added four words, "canines in licensed facilities," to existing Iowa Code to recognize raising canines in licensed facilities as a form of agriculture. It did not classify them as livestock, nor change any other Iowa law. Because of the ruckus, newspapers and radio and TV stations interviewed IaFed. We feel we received some positive media coverage from this issue and were able to expose some misconceptions the animal rights community continually presents to the public. Perhaps with a new governor next year, we will succeed in our efforts on this issue!

THIS IS ELECTION YEAR!

As chairman of IaFed, I encourage all responsible animal owners to get involved in the elections this year. It is imperative we elect a governor, secretary of agriculture, and senators, and representatives in Iowa that support the right to own and raise animals. We must be active in supporting the candidates that will support us. This can be done through donations and volunteering in their campaigns. If we want a voice during the legislative season, we must become active during election time. IaFed will be supporting candidates that support us. Please help us out by donating to IaFed, and also sending donations to your local candidates that support you. It is the only way we can preserve our rights. ---Joe Gerst, IaFed Chairman

Miscellaneous Bills

We watched bills this year concerning animal cruelty and liability for injuries caused by dogs running at large. We did put our support behind additional penalties for animal cruelty as we advocate for reasonable animal welfare regulations and do not condone the mistreatment of animals. The watched bills did not move out of committee.

Please mail all donations and correspondence to:

IaFed

LouAnn Hurd

5465 170th Ave, Carlisle, IA 50047

Or

Joe Gerst

12700 Linn Johnson Rd., Amana, IA 52203

You Need IaFed...IaFed Needs You!

Dangerous Wild Animal Bill

This bill would have prohibited anyone that does not already own one of these animals from doing so in Iowa. It would have prohibited the breeding or selling of these animals by anyone who already owns one. While IaFed does not advocate that people possess these animals, we feel persons who wish to do so should be able to if done responsibly. We stopped this bill in committee, but it will likely come up again. This summer we will be working on what we feel would be acceptable language.

Revised "Doggie Daycare Bill"

This bill was a revised version from last year. We continued to oppose this bill as it contained language that would be detrimental to the dog breeding industry. We were able to stop this bill in committee for the second time. The bill was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture. The Animal Rescue League lobbied very strongly for the bill.

Brucellosis Quarantine

In 2005, IaFed's lobbyist, Jill Altringer arranged a meeting with Representative Alons, state veterinarians, and a group of dog breeders in northwest Iowa to address this issue. The state changed their policy after this meeting. We have no guarantee that devastating quarantines won't be issued, but they have stated if a dog tests positive, and has been totally isolated from other dogs in the facility, the entire facility would not necessarily be quarantined. It is imperative that all facilities have an isolation unit and use it when testing incoming dogs for brucellosis. Remember, **Iowa veterinarians and laboratories are required** to report positive brucellosis tests to the state. Some laboratories in surrounding states also voluntarily report positive results back to Iowa.