

IaFed INFORMER

March, 2007

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

With the continued dedication of our lobbyist, Jill Altringer, IaFED is working diligently at the capitol again this year as the 2007 legislative season is in full swing. We have been on the watch for bills that would affect our industry during the 2007 legislative season.

Bills in Brief

Exotic Animal Bills: HF 712/SF 511, HF 302, HF 333 There has been a push in the past three years to limit a person's right to own exotic/dangerous animals. In response to this concern IaFed board member Rob Hurd and lobbyist Jill Altringer worked with legislators over the interim to find a way to address the issue of public safety while promoting responsible ownership.

HF333 is IaFed's version of the Exotic Animal bill. Instead of prohibiting ownership of a wide variety of animals, the bill focused on the perceived problem and allowed an individual to own a bear, tiger, or lion only if the person was licensed and the premises was inspected. The bill died in funnel. **IaFed: supports**

HF712 & SF511 These companion bills restrict a person's ability to own a long list of supposed dangerous animals. The Animal Rescue League proposed the bill language, and the Humane Society supports the bill. Because putting people out of business was viewed by legislators to be an unintended consequence of the legislation, amendments were added to the original bill to exempt fur-farming and other agricultural animal businesses. The bills are still very active and still need more work before moving to the floor for debate. **IaFed: opposes**

HF302 This is an exotic animal bill introduced by a legislator for a constituent and is similar to the Animal Rescue League's bill. The bill died in funnel.

IaFed: opposes

HSB235 & SF170 Although not companion bills, both of these bills modify a person's right to kill a dog that is worrying, chasing, maiming, or killing a domestic animal or fowl or is attacking a person.

IaFed: monitoring.

Bills in Brief cont.

SF312 This bill relates to the rescue of support animals during public disorder and state disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. **IaFed: monitoring**

HF547 This bill pertains to the ability of a city shelter to provide for the temporary custody of dogs and cats. IaFed asked for and received language changes in this bill.

IaFed: monitoring

HF170 This is the Iowa Zoo Funding Bill. We are watching so that this bill is not used as a means of introducing negative legislation for our industry.

IaFed: monitoring

2006 Fall Election Results

We are sure everyone is aware that there are role changes at the state capitol this year. With many new faces in the legislature, our lobbyist has her hands full trying to educate the new senators and representatives about our industry and issues. A very bright spot in the election results last fall was the victory of our new Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey. Joe had the opportunity to meet Secretary Northey several times during his campaign and attended his swearing in ceremony. We have a friend in Bill Northey.

Please mail all donations and correspondence to:

IaFed

LouAnn Hurd

5465 170th Ave, Carlisle, IA 50047

Or

IaFed

Joe Gerst

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You Need IaFed...IaFed Needs You!

Sales Tax Exemption on Inputs

We are active once again in proposing a bill to eliminate sales tax on some of our inputs. We are hoping to get some traction this year on our bill. The outcome is uncertain at this point.

Kennel Tours

Our lobbyist, Jill Altringer, has been working very hard to educate our legislators about the dog breeding industry. Part of her work involved arranging kennel tours at Knapp Creek Acres, LLC, a kennel operated by Joe Gerst and family. These tours were very beneficial in providing a new face for the industry and in forwarding our cause. We would appreciate volunteers that would be willing to open their kennels to a tour in the future. Please contact us if you have an interest in this area.

Animal Rights Groups

Major animal rights groups are out in full force this year to present their agendas and stop our efforts to protect our rights to own and raise animals in Iowa. The Animal Rescue League is very busy and the Humane Society of the United States now has lobbyists working at our state capitol. We must be alert and active in our efforts to defeat their intents to eliminate our industry. Remember, these groups have deep, deep money pockets to fund their efforts. We continue to have a need for volunteers to write letters and make phone calls when necessary. We deeply appreciate our supporters through the last year.

IaFed Funding

We urgently need everyone in the pet industry to support IaFed financially. If IaFed was to receive \$1 for every puppy raised in Iowa we would be a formidable force to be reckoned with at the capitol. All amounts are helpful and appreciated!

---Joe Gerst, IaFed Chairman