

IaFed INFORMER

March, 2008

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

Because of state budget concerns and the dynamics of the House and Senate, IaFed felt it was best to take another year to simply lay more groundwork to better educate our legislators on our industry rather than proposing legislation. Upon review of what has been happening in our state and many states across the country, it is imperative that we keep an alert “watch” in place to prevent negative legislation from overtaking responsible animal owners in Iowa. Our lobbyist, Jill Altringer, continues to be diligent in keeping our presence known at the capitol.

IT'S ELECTION YEAR!

Funding for IaFed is an ongoing need. It is of all time importance to have a lobbyist working on our interests in the state of Iowa. We also need funding to be able to support political candidates that are willing to protect our rights to own and raise animals responsibly. We have been operating on a budget that is substantially below what it will take to really make a difference in the support we receive from our state legislators. We are in a political environment in which monetary donations to political campaigns carry a tremendous amount of power. **Our primary monetary support this past year has come from IAPBA, APRI, and ACA.** We thank them for their sizable contributions. IaFed had an income of \$20,000 in 2007. Realistically, **we need \$25-\$30,000** to pay our lobbyist, make sizable contributions to selected political campaigns, and cover our operating expenses. **The number of individual donations from members of the pet industry remains very low.** Remember, our opponents can draw on hundreds of thousands of dollars to push their agendas and donate to political campaigns.

Dangerous Wild Animal Bill

The regulations for the Dangerous Wild Animal Bill are now set in place. While the end results were not all that IaFed had hoped for, there have been provisions made to include lower registration fees for private animal owners, and to exempt USDA licensed facilities, including fur-farming and other agricultural animal businesses from the regulations. Currently, legislative language is being worked on to allow the raising of Bengals.

IaFed Attacked SF 2293 With a Vengeance!

IaFed took immediate action on March 4, 2008, when alerted by our lobbyist, Jill Altringer, that Senate File 2293 was headed for a subcommittee meeting at 1 PM the next day. This bill would have been disastrous for the dog and cat breeding industry in Iowa. Language would have limited dealers and commercial breeders to **breeding, buying, selling, or exchanging no more than 20 litters in any 12 month period, or breeding, buying, selling or exchanging no more than 100 dogs or cats in any 12 month period.** The bill also had language that would give the state the right to inspect any commercial kennel or public auction that possesses a current and valid federal license upon a complaint received by the department. **IaFed flew into action with some pertinent phone calls and intense lobbying at the capitol.** Our actions were well rewarded as the subcommittee meeting was canceled and the bill now has no chance of reaching the senate floor this year on its own. However, we must remain diligent in our “watch” to make sure it is not attached as an amendment to any other bill. This bill is a very big “wake-up” call to all of us that **we must maintain our “watch” at the capitol.**

**Please mail all donations and
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***You Need IaFed...IaFed
Needs You!***

Tours

IaFed was privileged to conduct a tour of a kennel facility, Knapp Creek Acres, LLC, for Iowa's Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, and Representative Swati Dandekar. Our lobbyist, Jill Altringer, arranged the meeting and was also able to be present during the tour. It was a good opportunity to further explain our industry to Sec. Northey so he is familiar with what we do if issues come up that he must address. We very much appreciated the time that Rep. Dandekar and Sec. Northey set aside to visit with us.



We also want to thank Tom and Nancy Carlson, and all who participated in organizing and conducting a tour of their facility for their state senator, Senator Beall. The more positive awareness we present to our legislators, the more chances we have for promoting positive legislation and preventing negative legislation for our industry.