



MASSFED NEWS

Winter 2009

www.massfeddogs.org

This Federation...

- Promotes and protects the interests of responsible dog owners.
- Actively assists and participates in local, state and national legislation concerning dogs and dog owners.
- Brings such legislation to the attention of the membership and the general public.
- Promotes responsible dog ownership.
- Uses all legal means to promote the general welfare of dogs and dog owners.
- Disseminates information and knowledge regarding dogs.

2009-2010 Legislative Session - BILLS TO WATCH

The list of bills that MassFed is tracking for the next legislative session will be available for downloading on the Statewide page of the website. This is a four page document listing approximately 48 bills that are being tracked on a daily basis by our legislative tracking service.

We have a new page on the website called Position Papers. This page contains the same list of bills as the downloadable "Bills To Watch" document but it also has links to the MassFed position papers. The position papers also include full bill text. The Bills To Watch list and Position Papers will be updated daily as events occur.

MassFed Current Proactive Bills

Bill #	Sponsor	Name/Description	Position
SB406	Sen. Jehlen	Updating the Animal Control Laws Of Mass.	Support
HB913	Rep. Gobi	Concerning the Use of Certain Insurance Underwriting Guidelines	Support
HB1977	Rep. Hill	Relative to at Risk Dogs (HD2710)	Support
HB3704	Rep. Khan	Regulation of Animal Shelters	Support
SB1578	Sen. Brewer	Relative to Dog Training Areas in the Commonwealth (SD243) Same text as HB1401	Support
HB1401	Rep. Gobi	Relative to Dog Training Areas in the Commonwealth (HD962) Same text as SB1578	Support

MassFed Strong Opposition

HB344	Rep. Harkins	Prohibiting Devocalization of Dogs & Cats (HD653)	Oppose
HB1997	Rep. Pedone	An Act Relative to Animals (HD3393) (refile of 2007-2008 HB1948/HB5092)	Oppose
SB774	Sen. Hedlund	Relative to Puppy Mills (SD1448)	Oppose

MassFed's 5th Annual Lobby Day is Wed., April 8, 2009

See pages 2 & 3 of this newsletter for more information.

MassFed's 5th Annual Lobby Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2009 - Nurses Hall, State House

The invitation below was sent to all Massachusetts State Legislators.



Please send a handwritten reminder note (see below) to your Senator and Representative during the third week of March. Also, please indicate in your note if you will be there to greet them.

You can find your Senator and Representative by going to <http://www.mass.gov/legis/legis.htm>

Dear Representative or Senator (in your district):

I wanted to personally follow-up a mailed invitation you received in March from the Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners (MassFed). I hope you and members of your staff are planning on attending the reception and light breakfast on Wednesday, April 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 a. m. in Nurses Hall.

I'm a voter in your district and I plan to be there. MassFed will provide a wealth of information and will have knowledgeable dog owners available at the reception to help you understand our position on current legislation of importance to all animal owners throughout Massachusetts.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

If you are planning to attend Lobby Day, please add your name to the signup sheet (page 3 of this newsletter) recruit a friend to come along and mail the form back. You will receive more details about Lobby Day participation via email.

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

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**LOBBY DAY - 9:30–11:30am, Wed., April 8, 2009
Nurses Hall, State House, Boston, MA
Sign-Up Sheet**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: (indicate home, work, cell) _____
Email: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: (indicate home, work, cell) _____
Email: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: (indicate home, work, cell) _____
Email: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone: (indicate home, work, cell) _____
Email: _____

When sheet is filled with names please return to: Julie Rembrandt Seeley, MassFed Corresponding Secretary, P.O. Box 295, Harvard, MA 01451

MassFed Participation Around the State

Lowell BSL Update

The meeting went extremely well. Great list of experts mixed with many local groups and individuals. Some of us will be going back to help them come up with a workable solution. They are also letting the December 23rd ordinance have some time to work.

Holly Stump, MassFed Legislative Specialist

City Council delays decision on pit-bull ordinance

By Jennifer Myers, jmyers@lowellsun.com
January 14, 2009
http://www.lowellsun.com/local/ci_11450224

LOWELL -- An hour of passionate lobbying from animal advocates convinced the City Council to delay a vote on a proposed pit-bull ordinance last night.

The ordinance, patterned after similar laws adopted by the Boston City Council in 2004, restricts dog owners to a maximum of two pit bulls per residence, with the exception of puppies less than 9 weeks old; pit bulls must be properly registered and licensed, spayed or neutered, and muzzled when off the owner's private property; they will also be prohibited from the city dog park.

Pit-bull owners would be required to post a "Beware of pit bull" sign on their residence that is visible from the roadway and would not be allowed to keep the windows of their homes open, for fear that the dog may jump through the screen.

Those who violate the ordinance will be fined \$200 for the first offense and \$300 for each subsequent offense.

Paul Brunelle, a Lowell resident and pit-bull owner said Sioux City, Iowa, recently passed a pit-bull ordinance, but declined to include mandatory muzzling because wearing a muzzle renders the dog unable to defend itself. Their ordinance does require mandatory microchipping, leashes no longer than six feet, and stricter licensing.

He added that of 73 pit-bull attacks recorded in Sioux City, only one of the dogs was on a leash.

"The responsibility for an attack is on the owner, not the dog," Brunelle said. "We need to step up accountability for the owner."

Dr. Amy Marder, of Cambridge, a veterinarian and certified animal behaviorist, said the biggest problem with breed-specific legislation is that "within any breed there is enormous behavioral variability."

Additionally, determining which dogs should be classified as pit bulls is problematic. A recent DNA test on a dog classified as a pit bull by the MSPCA in New Hampshire revealed trace DNA from a German wirehaired pointer and a Yorkshire terrier.

Breed-specific bans have been lifted in Lower Saxony, Germany, and the Netherlands, Marder added.

"When a dog becomes dangerous it is because it is an individual, not a certain breed," she said.

Several of the 13 people who spoke in opposition to the ordinance pointed out that the Council passed a dangerous and vicious dog ordinance last month which should be given time to work before adding on any additional breed-specific regulations that will only serve to punish responsible dog owners.

Emanuel Maciel, the president of the Animal Control Officers of Massachusetts and Animal Control Officer for the city of New Bedford said breed-specific laws are too difficult to enforce because there are so many mixed breeds.

"In New Bedford the ordinance does not work," he said. "You take the dog to the vet and the vet says it is a boxer mix, then what do you do?"

Councilor Rita Mercier admitted that she had been leaning toward approving the ordinance, but the evening's testimony swayed her.

The Council voted unanimously to delay the vote in order to take representatives from the MSPCA, Humane Society, Lowell Unleashed and others up on their offer to work with the city to formulate an ordinance that will work best for all residents.

Legislative Tracking Service

MassFed subscribes to a legislative tracking service (InstaTrac) which alerts us on a daily basis to activities at the State House such as hearings scheduled, new bills filed, and progress on bills we are tracking. **We are fundraising on a continuing basis to cover the cost of this service.**

MassFed Website

Please visit our website frequently. The "News" page will include late breaking news about upcoming hearings and other events. Links from previous events and hearings will remain available for several weeks.

The "Membership" page includes links to member club website and links to Delegate emails. Upcoming meeting information is also posted on this page.

The new "Position Papers" page lists the same legislation as the "Bills to Watch" list but includes links to downloadable position papers and full bill text.

Please email website or newsletter information to jrembrandtseeley@aol.com.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest associate members: Bonnie Chandler, Linda Gagnon, David Harsch, Alanna Kelly, Diana Mason, Melanie Redford, SallyEllen R. Schilling, Cathy Seale, and Greg von Sternberg. We look forward to their active participation.

We'd also like to welcome new member clubs: Mayflower German Shorthaired Pointer Club with Bill Felins of Quincy as their Delegate; the Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club with Annie Baker of Sandwich as their Delegate; the Collie Club of New England with Annette Rawlings as their Delegate, and the Minuteman Boston Terrier Club with Nanette Prideau as their Delegate.

We are always recruiting! Club and Associate Membership applications can be downloaded from the website — www.massfeddogs.org.

If you become aware of any impending legislation in your town please contact a MassFed Board Member immediately so that we may start the process of investigation and take appropriate action! Board Member contact information is on the "Member" page of our website.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

- American Dog Owners Association
<http://www.adoa.org>
- American Kennel Club
<http://www.akc.org>
- Center For Consumer Freedom
<http://www.consumerfreedom.com/>
- Contacting Congress
<http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/committees.html>
- Lawmaking in Massachusetts
<http://www.state.ma.us/legis/lawmaking.htm>
- Mass. General Court
<http://www.state.ma.us/legis/legis.htm>
- National Animal Interest Alliance
www.naiaonline.org
- Project Smart Vote
<http://www.vote-smart.org/>
- Thomas - U.S. Congress on the Internet
<http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
<http://www.usda.org>

2009 Meeting Dates

Check our website (www.massfeddogs.org) for updated meeting info and reservation forms.

- **March 25 (Wed)** - Lobby Day Presentation in Conjunction with South Shore KC regular meeting, Marshfield, MA - flyer is downloadable from MassFed website.
- **April 8 (Wed)** - Lobby Day at the State House; 9:30-11:30 - more info & signup sheet available on MassFed website
- **May, 26 (Tue)** - In conjunction with Springfield KC
- **September 18 (Wed)** - Responsible Dog Ownership Proclamation at the State House
- **October 29 (Thur)** - Location & speaker to be announced

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the following clubs for their donations: Yankee Golden Retriever Club - \$100.00; Charles River Dog Training Club - \$100.00; Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club - \$100.00; Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Mass. - \$50.00; Hockamock Kennel Club - \$100 (all earmarked to help defray the cost of our legislative tracking service).

We would also like to thank the following clubs for their donations: Wachusett Kennel Club - \$2500, North Shore Kennel Club - \$500; Pioneer Valley Kennel Club - \$100.00; Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley - \$100.00; Worcester County KC - \$100; Bulldog Club of New England - \$50.00.

Club and individual donations make our ongoing education process possible

PLANNING FUTURE CLUB MEETING DATES & SPEAKERS?

If your club needs a meeting program, our MassFed Board Members will be happy to provide speakers to discuss Legislation and upcoming events. Don't miss an opportunity to educate your club members about legislation and lawmaking. Contact any MassFed Board member about scheduling a meeting speaker.

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Please send correspondence to: Julie Rembrandt Seeley, Post Office Box 295, Harvard, MA 01451-0295; fax 978-456-8853; e-mail JRembrandtSeeley@aol.com

MEMBER CLUBS

Airedale Terrier Club of New England Delegate Sybil Kevy barbate@gis.net	508-358-2097	Minuteman Boston Terrier Club Delegate Nanete Prideaux nprideaux@mindspring.com	508-347-96774
Bay Colony Tibetan Terrier Club Delegate Caryl Crouse lyractt@yahoo.com	508-625-8410	Minuteman Samoyed Club, Inc. Delegate David Harsch drharsch@comcast.net	508-539-2328
Bulldog Club of New England Delegate Tom Rattigan trat56@verizon.net	508-435-5276	Nashoba Valley Hunt Club Delegate Daphne Taylor raheenbarney@cs.com	978-345-5391
Cape Cod Kennel Club, Inc. Delegate Cheryl Malone dogwench@comcast.net	508-385-2808	New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club Delegate Jean Gamble jean.gamble@comcast.net	978-779-6112
Central New England Brittany Club Delegate Dorothy Boyatzi flashfirebrittanys@earthlink.net	978-249-2699	New England Rottweiler Fanciers, Inc. Delegate Bruce Billings, Jr. Yanko1234@aol.com	781-727-5795
Charles River Dog Training Club Delegate Rebecca Leonard rebeccaleonard@verizon.net	508-653-6139	New England Sporting Group Assn. Delegate Jane Folkman JaneTolls@aol.com	508-339-6916
Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Mass. Delegate Thomas Baldwin tomonlyone@aol.com	413-583-3128	New England Terrier Club Delegate Lin Falat falcroft@verizon.net	508-528-6340
Cocker Spaniel Breeders Club of N.E. Delegate Paula Emerick applhl@aol.com	508-759-3895	North Shore Kennel Club Delegate Holly Stump hollystump@hickoryhillkennel.com	978-356-1644
Collie Club of New England Delegate Annette Rawlings sealorecollies@comcast.net	508-273-7111	Patriot Papillon Club, Inc. Delegate Charlotte McGowan cmcgowan2@comcast.net	617-527-3450
Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club Delegate Bonnie Chandler jbchandler@verizon.net	978-456-3169	Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc. Delegate Nanette Prideaux nprideaux@mindspring.com	508-347-9674
Concord Dog Training Club Delegate Anne Testoni atbasset@rcn.com	978-779-6154	Poodle Club of Massachusetts Delegate John W. Seeley acjohn@aol.com	978-456-8644
Framingham District Kennel Club Delegate Donna Cappadona capadona@verizon.net	508-881-8714	Scottish Terrier Club of New England Delegate Kerry Fogler kcfogler@aol.com	978-371-0882
German Shepherd Dog Club of Central Mass. Delegate Sally Priest e-mail n/a	978-562-5455	South Shore Kennel Club, Inc. Delegate Darlene Flood dflood@capecod.net	508-888-6786
Greater Lowell Kennel Club Delegate Virginia O'Connell vmomenotomy2@verizon.net	781-925-8901	Southern Berkshire Golden Retriever Club Delegate Carol Ingher cingher@taconic.net	413-528-4135
Hockamock Kennel Club Delegate Nancy Fisk akikoakitas@aol.com	508-966-4564	Springfield Kennel Club Delegate Herb Everett dogtrainer4u@siriuscenter.com	413-467-9785
Holyoke Kennel Club Delegate Len Abraham lgakms@cs.com	413-323-0272	Town & Country Toy Dog Club of Eastern MA Delegate Barbara Krzewicki ursa_minor_poms@yahoo.com	617-852-1447
Irish Wolfhound Association. of N.E. Delegate Colleen Brown jcbrown09@aol.com	508-672-1516	Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc. Delegate Julie Rembrandt Seeley jrembrandtseeley@aol.com	978-456-8644
Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston Secretary Beth Teixeira macgregorlabs@cox.net	401-440-3387	Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc. Delegate Naida Parker grdane@yahoo.com	508-763-8959
Labrador Retriever Club of the Pioneer Valley Delegate Gretchen Boss cgnbboss@yahoo.com	413-736-5606	Worcester County Kennel Club Delegate Cynthia Stark stbernhospice@juno.com	508-852-2483
Ladies' Dog Club, Inc. Delegate Virginia Rowland blackslate@aol.com	978-939-5300	Yankee Golden Retriever Club Delegate Judith Erlanger judithper@aol.com	978-263-7301
Mayflower German Shorthaired Pointer Club Delegate Bill Felins bfelins@verizon.net	617-470-6757	Yankee Siberian Husky Club Delegate John Kenney musherjohn@verizon.net	781-383-0504
Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club Delegate Annie Baker heartwoodcorgis@aol.com	508-833-4350		

Clubs in RED have not paid 2009 dues and will be deleted from the roster on 3/31/09