

FEDERATION MEMBERS: JAN 26, 2010

We are off and running for 2010.

Two important business items are that the annual meeting will be held at the country music cluster on March 13 (Sat) following best in show. The meeting will be held in the lunch/conference room on the 2nd floor.

Also remember that dues are due now for 2010. All breed club dues are \$500.00 and single breed club are \$100.00. Please have your clubs' send the monies to Judy Russell.

BILL SUMMARY

SB0555/HB0238 S-2-12 to Judiciary Comm. H-6-1 held on desk. NO CHANGE.

Criminal Offenses – Prohibits a convicted Felon from owning a vicious dog. Amendment: adds a definition for vicious dog and also requires that the dog owner have the dog spayed or neutered within a specific time.

TFDC has been opposed to the original bill for some time, and was 100% against the amendment. The dangerous amendment on mandatory spay/neutering, and implied breed specific language made this a very bad bill for this session. This amendment came very late in the session. It may well resurface next year, so **we all need to be unified in defeating this.**

SB0604/HB1602 S-2-12 to Government Comm. H-3-3 to Public Health Com. Movement in House. NO CHANGE

Allows Municipalities over 100,000 to establish an ordinance allowing companion dogs into outside restaurants.

TFDC/neutral

SB0537/HB0627 S-4-27 passed Senate /sent to House desk. Cal. H-2-12 P2C. NO CHANGE.

Increases penalty for spectators at animal fights to a class A misdemeanor from class B (dog fights) and class C (other animal fights).

TFDC IS IN FAVOR.

SB0182/HB0385 S-2-11 to Judicial Comm. H-2-17 to Criminal Procedures in Judicial Comm. Animal Abuser Registration, Tracking and Verification Act. This passed the Senate last year, but failed in the House. NO CHANGE

TFCD/neutral

SB0391/HB0626 S-4-29 to Judicial Comm cal. H- 4-16 Held on desk for Rules. NO CHANGE

Animal cruelty prosecutions; a defendant must post court-ordered security to pay for expenses of caring for the animal within 72 hours or defendant loses all ownership rights.

Bill amended to 72 business hours. The time was reduced to cut costs of housing animals for 15 days. According to the Sponsor, people were not paying the bond for care and turning the animal over at the end of 15 days.

TFDC/neutral

SB0675/HB0539 S-3-12-09 held on House desk. H-5-20 SPONSOR CHANGE. NO CHANGE

Forfeited amounts from deposits paid to agencies to ensure that dogs and cats are spayed/neutered will be used to conduct programs to spay/neuter in the community where the agency is located. Funds will not be used to conduct educational programs in support of spay/neutering.

I have been advised that the funds collected in the various counties are being put into their general fund. They are not being used for education or spay/neutering.

Federation is neutral, but favor of the funds being used for education and or spay/neutering. The Funds going to a County's General Fund to be used for something non-dog is unacceptable. The Lobbyist was instructed to contact the Sponsors about adding the education portion back to the bill if further activity occurred.

Lobbyist has advised that this Bill will not get out of the House Ag. Committee.

SB0538/HB0413 S-6-16 placed on cal for revote. H-6-3 Passed House and sent to Senate. NO CHANGE

Deletes requirement that persons selling dogs/cats at a flea market obtain a license as a dealer from the Dept. of Ag.

TFDC/OPPOSED

SB0435/HB0422 S-2-12 to C. L. & A Comm. H -2-12 to Ag Com. NO CHANGE.

Deletes all licensure and regulation provisions for dog and cat dealers.

According to the Lobbyist, Federal law over rides the current law on the books. This was submitted to clean up this out of date Tennessee law. However, I directed our Lobbyist to question the reasoning of having the local circuit court having the authority to order an animal destroyed in the second section. The third section deals with Shelby Co. – why is this in this bill? S. Bunch will not comment on the 2nd and 3rd provision. Our Lobbyist will continue to question these additions if there is activity.

TFDC/OPPOSED

SB0410/HB544 S-2-12 to Jud Comm. H- 2-17 to Sub Comm in Jud. NO CHANGE

Exempts a person from civil liability for obtaining medical care for treatment for certain animals under specified circumstances.

TFDC supports this bill in principle, but opposes as currently written.

SB0041/HB0113 S-6-3 taken off notice. H-6-2 taken off notice in Budget. NO CHANGE

Deletes all licensure and regulation provisions for dog and cat dealers.

Same bill as SB0435/HB0422. See comments above.

TFDC/OPPOSED This Bill eliminates the Pet Store inspection by the Ag Dept. The amendment puts any local animal control, agency or facility in control of the inspection. Unfortunately, very few Counties have such agencies. Therefore, it leaves Pet stores uninspected.

SB1322/H1433 S- 4-21 taken off notice. H-3-11-09 sent to Jud Com. NO CHANGE

It is an offense to knowingly display or offer for sale, trade, gift or other transfer of ownership or to make a sale, trade, gift or otherwise transfer ownership of any animal including birds and reptiles on or from any public street, roadway, right-of-way, sidewalk or park.

I advised our Lobbyist to contact the sponsors to tell them we are OPPOSED to this bill based on the definition regarding Wild animals. We recommend this be removed or eliminate the words “or historically has been”. We also would like the words “gift” removed from the next section.

S. Berke told our Lobbyist that he would not entertain any discussion on this bill unless he (Berke) decided to push the bill. Bill will not move this year maybe in 2010 per our Lobbyist.

If and when Berke decides to move this Bill in 2010, our Lobbyist will work with him to remove the objectionable section as indicated above.

HB 2498 H – introduced 1/12/10.

Prohibits convicted felons, probationers, and parolees from owning, harboring, keeping, residing with, or being in the company of dangerous, vicious, or wild animals, unless preapproved or preauthorized by a court or a board of probation or parole to own or keep such animal. Creates Class A misdemeanor for violation of this legislation.

TFDC suggest being opposed.

SB1481/h1884 S-2-18 to Jud Com H-3-25 assigned to Civil Procedures. NO CHANGE

Requires landlords to notify proper agencies if a pet is left in a vacated rental property.

TFCD is FOR this bill.

HB 1885 3-11-09 to Jud Com. House NO CHANGE

Requires Landlords/Mortgage holders to notify animal shelters about abandoned animals.

TFDC is FOR this bill.

HB 2497 H - introduced 1/12/10.

Requires every owner of a dangerous, vicious or wild animal to have a policy of insurance for at least \$15,000 issued by an authorized insurer. Requires that an owner have up to 60 days to comply with this legislation if such owner reasonable knows the animal is dangerous.

TFDC it is suggested that we oppose this bill.

SB0879/HB1123 S-2-18-09 Jud Com. H 2-18-09 Jud Com. NO CHANGE

Creates a class E Felony for anyone who owns, possesses, or trains an animal or bird for the purpose of fighting, baiting, or injuring another animal or bird for amusement, sport or gain.

Lobbyist indicated early on that this Bill would not move this year.

TFDC IS IN FAVOR.

HB 2773 Introduced 1-21-10

Convicted felons, probationers, and parolees, who own, keep, share a residence with, or are found being in company of dangerous or wild animals

have committed a Class A misdemeanor, unless the person has a reasonable excuse.

TFDC has no current opinion on this bill.

SB2051/HB1881 S-4-22 TO GOV COM H-3-4-09 TO LOCAL GOV COMM. NO CHANGE.

Private bill for Hamilton County only

TFDC neutral

SB 1549/HB1731 S-2-18 TO GOVT COM. H- 3-25 ASSIGNED TO SUB.COM FOR SMALL BUSINESS NO CHANGE

This is a bill regulating the Tennessee Pet Groomers.

I advised our Lobbyist that the Federation is OPPOSED to this bill as written. Under definitions the section on "Kennels" must be eliminated. The sponsor was contacted about this request.

S. Burchett advised that he would not entertain any questions about this bill unless he decided to move it out of committee. Our Lobbyist is fully prepared to meet with S. Burchett at such time this Bill shows any sign of movement in 2010 and work with him on eliminating the Kennel definition.

TFDC strongly opposed.

JON COLE 1/26/2010