



Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance

Powhatan, Virginia

June 10, 2012

Major threat from the Federal Government

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued draft regulations that would declare anyone with more than four open females that sells ANY puppies or dogs to be a retail pet store subject to their regulation!! Announcing their “intent to close a loophole that allows the remote retail pet sales without regulatory oversight.”

The proposed rules will give dog owners few choices: Sell all dogs only to buyers who PHYSICALLY come to your premises, reduce and maintain the number of breeding females to four (4) including co-ownerships and dogs shared with family members; or obtain a license under the Animal Welfare Act, build a federally compliant facility, and allow APHIS inspectors to inspect your homes and facilities. You are also exempt if you sell less than \$500.00 worth of dogs in a year.

Selling even one dog away from your home kennel by shipping, or at a friend's home, at a show, a field trial will result in loss of an exemption from licensing. Both buyers and sellers will then come under this law. The narrow limits of these regulations will make shared, remote breeding programs a thing of the past. No longer will you be able to buy a dog from a person with a good reputation and have that dog shipped to you unless you and the breeder/trainer are willing to submit to draconian regulations and surprise home inspections!

This is a proposed rule by an agency, not a law Congress will vote on. The comment period is only for 60 days ending July 16, 2012 and APHIS Of the Department of Agriculture needs to hear how this affects you. Comments are due July 16, 2012 1 1:59 PM ET and may be submitted by visiting the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2011-0003 <http://tinyurl.com/7ey5vp3>

Comments may also be mailed to: Docket No. APHIS-2011-0003, Regulatory Analysis and Development PPD APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD, 20737-1238.

Additional information is available at the APHIS website. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/>

The November elections will determine whether this rabid animal rights direction continues or there is a return to more sensible policies. You have a chance to vote for candidates next Tuesday, June 12th that will help in this fight.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Major threat from the Federal Government
- June 12th Primary - George Allen and Randy Forbes
- The Fox Preserve Bill – General Assembly 2012
- California Senate Ban Hunting Bear and Bobcats with Dogs
- Garmin, Tri-tonics and Aimpoint
- New VaHDA County Chapters
- Join Us at These events
- New Web site
- New Brochure

Vote on June 12th in the Primary

June 12th is a critical day for Virginia and our country. For those of us that hunt with dogs it is vitally important that we send friends to Washington that will respond to us. The current administration has attempted to ban the use of firearms for any reason in the National Forests. Only under duress did they withdraw those proposed regulations. Now they want to stop you from breeding and selling dogs by adding regulations that would end raising any puppies that you do not keep! Please get out and vote on Tuesday June 12th for the sake of our way of life. The overwhelming majority of the VaHDA Board is supporting GEORGE ALLEN for U.S. Senator. Governor Allen was the Sportsmen's friend and no Governor in the last fifty years has represented our interests as ably as he did. FOURTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMEN RANDY FORBES, SIXTH DISTRICT CONGRESSMAN BOB GOODLATTE and MAJORITY LEADER ERIC CANTOR FROM THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT have proven time and again that they will be there to help us when we call on them. Each of these three friends has opposition in the June 12th primary. They need us to turn out friends and family, because voter turnout will be historically low. None of their opponents knows anything about our issues or has a track record that suggests they will help us when called upon. We need friends in high places!

Vote for George Allen, Randy Forbes, Bob Goodlatte and Eric Cantor on Tuesday June 12th.

The Fox Preserve Bill in the 2012 Virginia General Assembly

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is on the attack in Virginia. Their attack on Fox Preserves came as no surprise to the Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance. We have been telling you for several years that they were going to attack us. The lies and distortions that they spread surprised and outraged many, but those tactics gave them an early advantage. It took time to counteract the deliberate anti-hunting propaganda that they spread in the newspapers and behind closed doors. Many otherwise conservative legislators were appalled by the horror stories that the HSUS and their lobbyists spread and became outraged that Fox Preserves existed at all.

A great deal of hard work by those that hunt with dogs and support the preserves gradually enabled a clear more accurate picture to emerge. The amounts of money spent by the animal rights crowd may never be revealed but it has said that it was well in excess of a millions dollars when the TV, radio, and newspaper ads are included to the lobbying expenditures. What became clear was that those that operate preserves and those who hunt in them cannot survive without the help of other Sportsmen.

Most Sportsmen realized this from the start and rallied. Unfortunately, there were some who were missing in action. The National Rifle Association failed to take a position after saying they would help. So much for the NRA and its support of hunters.

Former Delegate Whit Clement, lobbyist stated before the Senate Agriculture Committee that the Master of the Fox Hound Association (MFHA) and their twenty-four Virginia hunts supported the HSUS to outlaw fox preserves. Their lobbyist read a letter of support for outlawing the preserves from Col. Dennis Foster at the Senate hearings. It is interesting that they claim to oppose HSUS and all that they stand for, yet have consistently attacked hound hunting other than mounted fox hunting. Their representatives opposed Sunday Hunting, but used their statement to attack deer hunters that use dogs! It is amazing that they claim to support hunting and oppose HSUS, but have repeatedly attacked the rest of the hound hunting community.

The California Senate just passed a bill to outlaw hunting bear and bobcats with dogs! HSUS, the largest anti-hunting group in the United States is the author of that bill as well. While claiming that they rescue dogs and cats and asking individuals to donate \$19.00 a month, they are working to outlaw hunting and the private ownership of domestic animals. The public has ignored their attacks on farming and animal research costing the consuming public millions. It is amazing that conservatives have still not seen the threats this this group poses.

Even more startling was the testimony on behalf of Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli. Long thought to be a friend of Sportsmen, his spokesperson was the radical animal rights activist Michelle Welsh, an Assistant Attorney General in his office. What is truly remarkable is Ms. Welch's testimony in light of the fact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' representative from the Attorney General's Office was present in the room. Ms. Welch repeated the anti-hunting nonsense that HSUS has made its party line. Ms. Welch said, "DGIF did not have the legal authority to regulate fox preserves!" This is an incredible statement because DGIF had indeed been regulating them since they were authorized by the General Assembly in the 1980s.

In December 2011, Ken Cuccinelli, breaking precedent, announced his candidacy for Virginia Governor in the 2013 elections. Showing no regard for candidates from his own party that were seeking election for the U.S. Senate and President he launched a campaign. Mr. Cuccinelli, a Republican from Fairfax County demonstrated his contempt for rural Virginia by supporting the HSUS position after he sought Sportsmen's help in his successful 2009 election for Attorney General.

When the Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance attempted to contact General Cuccinelli to ask for a meeting about his position on the Fox Preserve Ban, his representative refused saying he was too busy! Former Delegate Watkins Abbitt has said he would write him for an explanation from the Attorney General, but he has not heard from him. We need no further explanation to oppose his nomination as the Republican candidate for Governor of Virginia in 2013. We hope that the farm community and others that are concerned about the radical Animal Right Movement will join us in opposition to Ken Cuccinelli!

State Senator Marsden and Delegate Ken Plum both Democrats from Northern Virginia have promised to introduce Fox Preserve Legislation in the 2013 session of the General Assembly. You can bet there will be more outrageous claims in the media. We will need your help in responding to this threat.

It is hoped that all Sportsmen will stand together in answer to this threat. We were reminded that the Bear hunters were there in support of the foxhunters. We need to hear the concerns of our fellow Sportsmen and seek to work together. An Alliance of equals is one that requires we work together in mutual respect to benefit all without neglecting the rights of a few. No one was forced to join this Alliance.

California Senate bans hunting Bear and Bobcats with dogs

HSUS is at it again! The anti-hunters have had a victory in California. The state Senate voted 22-15 to ban the hunting of Bear and Bobcat with dogs. Not surprisingly this was HSUS sponsored legislation. The local news stations played a video of a small bear being ripped apart by hounds. It appears to be another of the HSUS staged videos very similar to the one used against the Fox Preserves here in Virginia.

Why the Lies Being Told in California Should Worry Sportsmen Nationwide

May31 by [Evan Heusinkveld](#)

It's easy to understand why California Sportsmen are up in arms as the animal rights lobby continues its push to ban hunting with hounds for bobcat and bears. But what you might not know is why it should matter to sportsmen in the other 49 states.

I have never hunted with hounds. But today I am a hound hunter because each of the arguments the anti-hunting lobby is using against the Houndsmen could just as easily be used against you and I. This fight is our fight too, and here is why:

The Top Lies Being Told:

1.) It's Unsporting to use Hounds to Chase Bears:

This should pique the interest of every pheasant hunter, duck hunter, foxhunter and more. The anti's are running around Sacramento telling legislators that it's inhumane to allow a dog to chase a bear – they say it isn't fair chase. In reality, there is NO difference between using a hound to track a bear's scent and using a bird-dog to follow a pheasant/grouse/quail. If it's inhumane for bears – what's next? Pheasants? Fox? Coyotes? Raccoons? The truth is – they think all hunting with dogs is bad.

2) Inhumane to Shoot a Bear at Close Distance:

This flies right in the face of everything sportsmen are taught. Hunter Education teaches us to take responsible, ethical shots. To work to get the best shot possible. If it's inhumane to shoot a bear at close distance – what about a turkey or a deer? The close distance allows the hunter to age, sex, and determine if the bear has cubs all prior to taking a shot. Don't be confused. They would oppose bear hunting if you shot the bear at 200 yards. It's not the distance they oppose, that's just the crutch (read: LIE) they are using. They oppose ALL hunting.

3) Misleading Facts – The Number of States That Allow Hound Hunting:

The bill's author likes to point out that 2/3rds of the U.S. doesn't allow bear hunting with hounds. That's a nice sound bite, but the truth of the matter is 18 states don't even have a huntable population of bears! Of the 32 states that hunt bear, 18 allow the use of dogs – nearly 60%. Of the states with more than 2,000 bears – 16 of 23 allow you to use dogs – 70%. The anti's argument would be akin to arguing for a ban on elk hunting in California because Ohio doesn't allow it (Nevermind the fact that Ohio doesn't have Elk!).

4) Pictures – GPS collars

This one is another favorite of the animal rights lobby. In California, they are sending packets of information to each legislators' office that include things they claim are unsightly deeds such as dogs wearing GPS collars, which they claim prevents bear hunting from being a fair chase. What they don't tell you, is that GPS collars are already ILLEGAL in California. The pictures they are using are from another state all-together.

5) Houndsmen and Bear Hunters Are Just “Trophy Hunting”

This one should be no surprise to any hunter. They claim the only reason we hunt is for the trophy. When in fact, the reasons for hunting are much more complex – see The Grim Hunter. But in California, they are telling legislators that bear hunters shoot the bear and leave the meat to rot. Sportsmen know the truth. There are already wildlife laws in California on the books that require sportsmen to take the bear meat – that truth just doesn't fit into the anti's agenda.

6) Cruel and Inhumane When Hunting. Sound Science When Used For Research

This one is a favorite of mine. In California, the anti's are saying that it's cruel and inhumane to use hounds– but their bill allows the Department of Fish and Game to do it. In addition, when these same hunters volunteer their time, dogs, etc. to help capture a mountain lion or a bear for research it's called sound science. For more than 40 years, the use of hounds has been used by private foundations, universities and wildlife agencies safely and humanely. The truth is there is no difference between treeing a bear for hunting or for research.

Each of these lies can, and likely will, be used against sportsmen again in the near future. It may be in Florida, or Texas, or Pennsylvania... we can't predict where. But if they are able to get away with these lies now, they'll surely be used again. Sportsmen must stand together to defeat this bill – because after all we know their real agenda is the end of ALL hunting. If these lies are successful in California, be sure they will find their way to your state soon.

This entry was posted in Uncategorized and tagged 2nd Amendment, anti-hunting, bear hunting, bird dogs, blog, bobcat hunting, California Senate Bill 1221, deer hunting, duck hunting, firearms, fishing, gun, hound hunting, hounds, houndsmen, hunters, hunters rights, hunting, hunting rights, lawmaker, legislator, politics, protect hunting, protect what's right, PWR, retriever, right to hunt, SB 1221, shotgun, sportsmen, sportsmen's rights, threats to hunting, trapping, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, USSA, wildlife.

Garmin, Tri-tronics and Aimpoint now available through VaHDA!

The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance, working with Strohmman Enterprises, is excited to announce that it can now offer you products from these three great companies at extremely competitive prices.

Strohmman offers you competitive prices and will donate a portion of the price to the Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance when you use the Promo Code: **VAHDA**

To get a price on a Garmin Astro 320 or any other Garmin, Tri-tronics or Aimpoint product phone or email Strohmman Enterprises!

Contact Information:

804-477-3578

sales@sedirect.net

New VaHDA County Chapters

Four new County Chapters are being organized as this is being written. These Chapters will help provide organization and a constant point of contact to our many members north of the James River. The Spotsylvania Co. Chapter has met and elected Ste Bennett as its Chairman. Ronny Wilson and Mark Holloman are organizing the Gloucester County Chapter. The new King and Queen County Chapter will hold its first meeting in late July. For information please contact Chris Solan at (804) 514-7486. Alan Haislip is organizing the Fluvanna Chapter. For information call Robert Bishop at (804) 543-1510.

Join Us at These EVENTS - <http://www.vahda.org/events.htm>

The Virginia Outdoor Sportsman Show 2012

August 10th (4pm-9pm), 11th (9am-7pm), and 12th (10am-6pm)

Richmond Raceway Complex

600 E Laburnum Ave., Richmond, Virginia

<http://www.sportsmanshow.com/index.asp>

Stop by our booth!

The Virginia State Fox Beagle Championships

October 20th and 21st

Location: Poole's Foxhound Training Preserve

For Information: Chris Solan (804) 514-7486

fcetrain@msn.com

(All proceeds go to the VaHDA)

Redesigned VaHDA Web Site

We have given our web site a new look! We hope you will find it easier to move around in and find the information you need. Its at www.VaHDA.org . If you have pictures of your dogs you would like to share, or information that needs to be available to Alliance members, please email us at info@vahda.org.

New Brochure

Your Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance has created a new brochure to explain the role that the VaHDA plays in defense of our hunting heritage, i.e. what we do, why we do it, how it's done, and why all sportsmen should support our efforts. This brochure will be available to Hunt Club presidents, members, and those interested in being a part of the fastest growing, most influential outdoor sporting organization in Virginia. We expect it to answer many of the questions hunters have about us.

Know the Law

It is a class one misdemeanor in Virginia to remove a tracking collar (§ 18.2-97.1) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+18.2-97.1>). The penalty may be up to a one thousand dollar fine and one year in prison. Obviously, there are other charges that may be filed related to the destruction or attempt to dispose of the collar

The theft of the dog (§ 18.2-97) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+18.2-97>) or killing a dog (§ 18.2-144) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+18.2-144>) are both class five felonies with prison time, fines and the loss of citizenship (loss of the right to keep and bear arms) as a consequence.

It is unlawful for any person to deliver or release any animal not owned by that person to a pound, animal shelter or humane society or to pretend to be the agent of the owner (§ 18.2-144.2) (<http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+18.2-144.2>).

We can be our own worst enemy or our best advertisement

When people who don't hunt think about hunting with dogs do they think about law-abiding neighbors or outlaws? It is up to every one of us to be ambassadors for the Heritage we love. If you see a law being violated, it is your duty to report that person. Tell your hunting friends that you will not tolerate law breakers in your midst. Statistics prove that hound hunters are among the most law-abiding citizens in the Commonwealth, but there are still "bad actors" in among us. Help protect the future of our sport!

Submit an article

If you would like to submit an article for possible publishing in our newsletter email us at info@vahda.org or mail it to P.O. Box 657 Powhatan, Virginia 23139.

All VHDA Board members are real hunters who own dogs. The VHDA has no paid staff. We pay our own expenses because "We HAVE a dog in this fight!" If we sometimes sound angry it is because we are! We would prefer to be hunting, teaching our children about the wonders that God has given us and training our dogs. We know that we must have a strong voice or we will lose to people, who not only disagree with you, but hate and revile you because you hunt.

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