



Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance

Powhatan, Virginia

November 1, 2010



Vote on November 2

Next Tuesday, November 2nd is Election Day. For too long too many Sportsmen have ignored the day in favor of a day in the field or on the water. The result has been a steady erosion of your rights. We learned that political action was the only answer to combat the Hound Study and DGIF's efforts to end Hunting with Hounds in Virginia. Voting is a habit that we must understand is a fundamental obligation of a free people, must teach our families and hope our enemies are too busy to do so themselves. You will only have a voice as long as you exercise it.

Many people are calling this the most important election for our nation in a generation. The President has said it is a referendum on his policies and his Administration. All 435 members of the House of Representatives must be elected on Tuesday as well as approximately one third of the 100 U.S. Senators. Many of our members have asked which of the candidates they should vote for or are confused by endorsements of other organizations such as the NRA. The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance and the Commonwealth Sportsmen's Alliance are registered Virginia Political Action Committees and as such do not endorse candidates for Federal Elections such as this. The Board of Directors votes all political endorsements on. While there has

been discussion about the merits of various candidates no votes have been taken.

We believe that it is important to support those that have supported us in the past. As you might expect the majority of the Board members have however, informally indicated that they support various individuals. There are other good candidates in other districts that are worthy of your support but do not have a track record with us.

Rob Whitman in the 1st District is a hunter himself and supported us in the General Assembly. Randy Forbes, running in the 4th District is a long -time friend and supporter of the VaHDA who has a large number of family members that belong to the VaHDA. State Senator Robert Hurt is running in the Fifth District. Robert was very helpful during the Hound Study fight and has been there for Sportsmen time and again. Bob Goodlatte, running in the 6th District, another longtime friend, whose support of all things cherished by Sportsmen, is unquestioned. Bob is the ranking member on House Agriculture and is likely to become its Chairman if control of the House changes. In the 7th District, Eric Cantor, is a very important friend. Eric is already the Republican Whip. He is destined for bigger and better things and will be a very important friend in the future. Vote on Tuesday, November 2nd, regardless of whom you support. It is important to flex your voting muscles, so that politicians will know that Sportsmen care and will vote!

A New Threat in your County You Can't Ignore

Augusta County has enacted a ten-dog limit on kennel license holders and is requiring conditional use permits, with public hearings during the zoning process, if you make improvements to a kennel. On the surface it may appear it will only cost you an additional \$250. BEWARE; this is only the beginning of a threat even greater than the lost of the Right-to-Retrieve. If you are modifying your kennel by adding a roof, or want to pave it you will need a building permit in most counties. When you go to get the building permit they may require that the kennel is covered and in some instances may even require a building. They will definitely require you to have a separate septic system! This is not the worse case; this is happening right now in rural counties on land that has agricultural zoning!!

In recent weeks, we have been contacted by Houndsmen in Sussex County, who are concerned with a new issue that has surfaced there involving kennels. A new resident to the county was stopped by the planning dept. from completing his kennels until a building permit was acquired. Upon pursuing the building permit, the issuance of the permit was delayed until he received approval of a Conditional Use Permit from the county board of supervisors. This Conditional Use Permit cost him \$500. The Conditional Use Permit will only be valid as long as he continues to meet the guidelines established in the permit which includes unan-

nounced kennel inspections. Failure to pass an inspection can lead up to and include the seizing of his hounds.

The next step, which is even worse, is to require all kennel owners, when they renew their kennel license, to submit to this special use permit process with all of these conditions. In Augusta County a kennel owner, in a very rural part of the county, went to renew his kennel license and was told that until he applied for and received a conditional use permit that the license would not be issued. This was not a new kennel, and it was a first class facility that housed his seven rabbit beagles. He was further told that prior to applying it must be inspected by the entire Board of Supervisors, who would arrive unannounced sometime during a two-week period. The entire Board, all elected members, arrived in a small bus and toured his property and his kennel. After they left he was told he must appear before the Board of Supervisors, submit his application to them. A letter was sent to all of his neighbors and the surrounding community, telling them of his application for the special use permit for a kennel and inviting them to a public hearing! This is happening in several other counties as this is written.

Some counties have recently passed local ordinances limiting the number of dogs you can keep. We have previously reported that Hanover County set a 50-dog maximum. Today we discovered that Augusta County set the maximum number of dogs at TEN! The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Powhatan County, when challenged about its illegally high kennel license fees, threatened in open meeting to impose “special use permits” and increase the housing requirements. Powhatan has again increased it fees, thinking that the people can’t fight back.

You ask, “why would rural farming communities carry out such an openly Animal Right agenda?” The answer is simple they want more money to grow government, increase the staff and spread their influence. Virginia counties know that the state (all states) and the counties are facing budget cuts in this recession. Governor McDonnell is preparing the state agencies for more cuts in the nature of 4 to 6 percent next year. The counties are heavily dependent of state money for schools and other local programs. When you couple this new zoning effort with State laws that have vague or no definitions about what constitutes “animal cruelty”, laws which deny you a hearing before your dogs are seized, and place no limit on daily maintenance fees for seized dogs, you have NO rights!

What do you think these folks will say to the dog owner that ties his dogs out and doesn’t have a fancy kennel?

Remember that the Animal Rights groups, including the Humane Society of the United States, P.E.T.A. and others want dogs to be treated the same as people. They are trying to pass laws that treat animals as if they are human beings. That they willingly and often kill (“put to sleep”) the animals in their charge is not inconsistent with the concept of assisted human suicide promoted by many of these same folks.

The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance believes that actions of counties that pursue this course of action are improper. They violate your property rights and your Fourth Amendment Rights against unreasonable search and seizure. We believe that the Federal Courts, which have in a number of lower court rulings said that dogs are property, will rule that the counties can’t not require you to surrender your rights and will

require them to get a search warrant when they want to search your property. We also believe that courts will rule that taking your dogs without FIRST having a hearing is unconstitutional.

This is not something we have dreamed up, we wish it were that easy, this is happening today in Virginia. We must act together, now, to stop this. The HSUS and PETA have failed at other attempts to eliminate hunting dogs in Virginia. Now they have changed their direction to instill laws that will financially drive everyone out of the sport. Hopefully the Agri-business community will wake up and realize that if this works they are next! They didn't in Augusta County; these rules were put into place without so much as a peep! So, you must act now!

There is much that must be done. This will not be as easy to stop as the Hunting Dog study was, and that took 18 months of hard work! The legislature may be able to help with part of this problem by amending certain laws currently on the books, but ultimately we will have to go into court, and probably Federal Court to assert our rights. This will take time and a great deal of money; you must get involved NOW!

YOU MUST:

- **Form a Hunting Dog Chapter in your county, attend the meetings, volunteer and work together. If they don't meet often, ask why! All actions starts and ends in the county, not at the State level. In most cases, we are not even aware of what your county is doing until a member calls.**
- **Get to know and talk to your County Board of Supervisor members about how and why you keep dogs. Why it is important to you and the county to be reasonable about dog laws. Impress upon them that you care about your dogs. Politely, make it clear that your dogs are your personal property. Ask them to talk to you whenever the discussion turns to dogs or hunting!**
- **Get to know and talk to your member of the House of Delegates and State Senator.**
- **Naturally, we will need a great deal of money.**

Every member of the General Assembly, both House and Senate, must run for re-election in 2011, one year from now. They care about what you have to think and want to hear from you. If you leave it to someone else we will lose our Rights as Free Americans and surrender the heritage that so many Virginians have fought and died for.

DGIF Taking Input on 2011-12 Hunting Regulations

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is receiving comment about the hunting regulations for the next two-year period. These regulations will take effect on July 1, 2011. Your input is needed. For too long

now DGIF has increased the length of “primitive weapons seasons” without any increase in hunting time for the people that want to hunt with dogs. That people that hunt with dogs make up at least 60 percent of all those that hunt, with a license or those not required to have a license, doesn’t seem to effect DGIF. About that same percentage of the licensed hunters that hunt with dogs also use “primitive weapons”. A large part of the problem is currently there are no members of the DGIF Board of Directors that hunt with dogs, despite Governor McDonnell’s promise, prior to the election, that he would appoint more member that hunt with dogs. The major issue is the ignorance of the staff about hunting with dogs and their open hostility toward hunting with dogs.

When a youth day at the end of September was proposed, dog hunting was not allowed. Then member, Richard Railey, raised the issue, but didn’t press it. The consequence was that when they set aside a day to attract young hunters to our sport, we the majority were not allowed to teach our children about the sport we love, and prohibited Hound hunting. A side effect was to practically deny Bear hunters the last day of their dog-training season, which is already way too short.

We support all legal hunting in its many forms, but are increasingly concerned that the majority of hunters are being pushed out. Shooting deer and bear over bait is popular and legal in some states. It is not in NOT in Virginia and the law must be enforced!

Take a minute go on line and let the DGIF staff know how you feel about the proposals the staff is making. Better still talk to your DGIF Board member directly.

Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance Officers

The VaHDA Board of Directors has elected officers for the next two years. Jimmy Hackett of Prince George County will serve as Chairman. Kirby Burch of Powhatan County will serve as Vice Chairman. Chuck Ellsworth of Henrico County (Cumberland) will serve as Secretary. Wade McClintock of Chesterfield County will serve as Treasurer. All of the former officers are serving on the Board of Directors.

Derick Radcliffe is going serve as the Internet Researcher and data entry specialist. Efforts are under way to increase the number of County Chapters.

Fund raising will be a big priority for us all. This year, North Carolina has been in the fight of their life in an attempt to save hound hunting. They have successfully defeated every bill presented against the sport due to the hard work of their lobbyist. Each club and hound organization in North Carolina was required to put up \$250 to \$500 apiece in order to hire their lobbyist. In Virginia, the VaHDA with their lobbyist has been operating on the donations that were given during the hound study. Since then, the donations have dwindled and now only a few donations are forthcoming. We must rally the troops to get on board and join in the fight to save the hounds. As we look ahead, issues like the “Conditional Use Permits” could drive us into Federal court, cases like that can cost us as much as \$100,000. This money will have to come from those that practice

this sport and those who financially benefit from its existence. The VaHDA is asking every hunt club and hound organization to make an annual donation of \$5.00 per member. This request is a very minimal burden on anyone but, when you consider that 200,000 people hunt with dogs this minimal donation can be substantial. There is no more time to think about it. It is time to get on board and do your part to save this part of our heritage for our children and grand children.

North Carolina: In the Crosshairs Too

This article was submitted by Henri McClees with a foreward by our Reg Cooke and is included to help keep both our North Carolina and Virginia members alerted to the threat faced by all of those who hunt with dogs. whether you hunt deer or ducks or rabbits of quail, you are facing a threat from radical animal rights groups!

Hunting deer with dogs: the Big Game Subcommittee of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC), led by commissioner David Hoyle, imported first the Georgia Wildlife Resources Division's architect of the Georgia 1000 acre Plan, to "describe Georgia's experience with the Plan", and then the head of Georgia's largest hunting and fishing group to generally do likewise. Mr. Hoyle has shown no interest in hearing anyone describe the Virginia experience. This is in spite of Virginia having approximately 10 times as many dog-based deer hunters as Georgia and having spent 50 times as much in "studying" the issue as Georgia. But Virginia came to a different conclusion from Georgia. Mr. Hoyle put off pushing a Georgia based proposal to a vote in the full WRC pending November 2nd North Carolina Legislative House and Senate election results, instead has called a meeting for November 3rd, the day after the election to discuss strategy before deciding whether to push a vote at the full WRC meeting on November 4th. Despite his protests that he's not anti dog hunting, his actions clearly show his intentions are for the NC Wildlife resources commission to change dog hunting as presently practiced.

Additionally, at the behest of the HSUS, the Winston Salem City Council has tentatively adopted regulations that mirror the puppy mill bill HSUS narrowly failed to get passed at the state Legislature last year. Owning more than 57 females would trigger designation as a breeder with its unannounced inspections, threat of animal seizures etc.

Reg Cook

News update from NC Sporting Dog Association

10/29/2010

North Carolina's dog hunting heritage is vulnerable. Elections, as always, provide the opportunity for revolution. In our case, we want more Second Amendment and hunting supporters elected. We hope for a strong conservative swing in the NC Senate and NC House. Most conservatives are more comfortable with

us than the liberals/environmentalists/animal rights coalition.

In 2009-2010, we fought animal rights (AR) bills continuously. There was a barrage of AR legislation, including multiple bills to ban “puppy mills”, anti-wildlife pens, and anti-tethering. All of these failed, thanks to the efforts of dog hunters and our allies in Second Amendment groups and agribusiness.

Concurrent with the AR attacks, we find an anti-dog sentiment among some of our NC Wildlife Resources Commissioners. While they deny bias, there have been sporadic efforts to curtail dog hunting on game lands, close gates to game lands, and increase seasons for archery and still hunting at the expense of dog hunters. The WRC Big Game Committee is flirting with “the Georgia Plan”, which would involve ceding all power over dog hunting to the Commission. In NC, jurisdiction over hunting with dogs lies solely in the legislature. We hope to keep it this way!

Looking forward to 2011, we know political labels do not ensure support of our sport. We welcome friends who are Democrats and Republicans. Dog hunters need to support local and state elected officials who support our heritage. Generally, we find our friends among the conservatives and our enemies among the liberals.

The NC Sporting Dog Association will continue to fight for our dog hunting heritage in the years to come. We are a not-for-profit organization working to protect the heritage of hunting with dogs. For more information, contact Joe McClees and Henri McClees

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Editor's Note:

This is the first News Letter in quite some time. We have not stopped working for you as some may have thought. We have been unusually busy. We are planning changes in the organization to make it easier to communicate with you. This includes changes to the web site in the near future. Your help and involvement is needed.

VHDA Reward for Abandoned Dogs - \$250

The Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance is offering a reward of \$250.00 for the arrest and conviction in Virginia of anyone convicted of dumping (abandoning) a hunting dog. The Animal Rights groups condemn Houndsmen for two issues. Knowing the support that hunting has among the general public they attempt to portray all Houndsmen as Neanderthals that abandon or mistreat their dogs. We believe that any honest Veterinarian will tell you that some take better care of their animals than others, but that on balance hunters take far better care of their dogs than does the average pet owner. We can win this argument as long as we respond to their false attacks and police our own ranks.

Hunting Season Reminders

Hunting is underway. Please follow some very easy to understand suggestions that will help all of us.

- Insist that those that you hunt with and that hunt in your neighborhood are ethical hunters. Never turn your dogs loose with the intention of chasing game across land that you do not have permission to hunt. Do not tolerate people that trespass to hunt. You have been granted the right to retrieve your dogs under strict conditions... Know the law and obey it!
- Report ALL law violators! The few outlaws that are among us are not the reason for Animal Rights groups attacking us, but we do not need to give anyone any ammunition to use against us.
- Teach new hunters the right way to do things.
- Make sure that your dogs are well cared for and promote your sport!
- Use missing dogs web pages if you lose a dog or think it might be stolen! <http://www.vahda.org/missingdogfacts.htm>

DEER POSTER/PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE ON THE WEB

In response to attacks by Animal Rights groups and their activists we have produced a public safety poster called "Deer through the Windshield" that you can print or have printed to tell non-hunters why hunting saves lives and money. For a few pennies you can go to Kinko's, Staples, Office Depot, etc. and have a color poster made. You can copy the file from our web site <http://www.vahda.org/PDFs/DeerWindshield.pdf> and use it for a newspaper ad, a poster to put up in the local stores and neighboring hunt clubs. This is something that all hunters can easily do to help get a positive message about hunting into their community. Give a positive image to the non-hunting public.

HELP GIVE US A VOICE – DONATE TO THE VHDA TODAY

Membership in your Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance costs nothing. We the Board believe that there is strength in numbers and that by not having a membership fee the Alliance will grow faster and give a voice to more people. The generosity of our member clubs, organizations and individual members has enabled us to “Have a seat at the table” when your rights are being discussed. We have strived to be responsible stewards of your money. We believe that we will face a barrage of bills seeking to amend the Right-to-Retrieve and place other restrictions on hunting with dogs. Many of our opponents are extremely well funded.

In uncertain economic times we are asking all who can to contribute to the VHDA. Our victory fund will need to cover lobbying costs for the upcoming General Assembly and for supporting the re-election of our friends to the House of Delegates and Senate next year. If we don’t help keep our friends in the legislature and get statewide office holders that support us we will face four more years of hard fights that may happen even with friends in office. We would not ask if there were a need.

Please help make to the your Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance strong by sending your donation to:

Virginia Hunting Dog Alliance

P.O. Box 657

Powhatan, Virginia 23139

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