

From: Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance \(\text{SAOVA}\)

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Dear SAOVA Friends,

It has been some time since we discussed federal dog breeder legislation. As 2011 ended, HSUS had gathered a substantial number of cosponsors for HR835 / S707 Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (PUPS) reaching 192 in the House and 31 in the Senate. The escalating number of cosponsors prompted new dialogue among sportsmen and dog breeders regarding the bill's potential impact and re-energized posting of online opposition.

Previous versions of PUPS would have required the federal government to set standards for when to breed and how frequently to breed dogs, and relied on some numerical threshold for adding retailers under USDA regulation. PUPS is the current example of overbearing regulation that attacks dog breeders and rescuers.

PUPS creates a new category, High Volume Retail Breeder, defined as someone who has ownership in or custody of an intact female dog 4 months of age or older and sells 50 offspring in a year.

Diana Culp, former HSUS employee, wrote in the Examiner, "These bills will

have an effect on people who care for purebred dogs.” Culp explains, "50 puppies" appears to affect only large volume breeders. However, good breeders and rescues (and shelters) maintain ownership interests in all dogs they place through sales and adoption contracts. And while a good breeder would never place 50 puppies in one year, a shelter certainly does. A rescue may have 50 puppies in foster homes and if they are not spayed by the time they are 4 months old (which is a controversial procedure) the rescue is subject to USDA inspection. (Who is Against Puppies? Puppy Protection Act <http://tinyurl.com/82dkn6c>)

Some dog owners and breeders continue to struggle with this definition of “50 sales” thinking that according to this definition the proposed legislation can never affect them. It is important not to become sidetracked with the numbers game. The intent of PUPS as with all previous versions is to change the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and USDA/APHIS responsibility forever by granting authority for federal regulation to extend beyond commercial dog breeders. The policy to separate commercial and retail breeders has been challenged and defended in court. At that time, USDA attorneys defended this policy on several grounds, one of which was potential invasions of privacy that would result if federal inspectors began enforcing "cleaning, sanitation, handling, and other regulatory requirements in private homes." That concern is just as relevant now as it was in 2002.

Maine Hunting & Sporting Dog Owners writes, “It’s no secret HSUS goals include the elimination of ALL sport hunting. Under PUPS new regulations, responsible breeding of hunting and sporting dogs for ethical hunters would be significantly reduced or eliminated all together.”

The United States Working Dog Foundation provides a succinct description of the bill, “PUPS epitomizes the grave danger imposed upon a society when animal rights activists and legislators attempt to regulate a highly complex specialty which they do not understand.”

Additional opposition statements are posted and can be read at PopVox <https://www.popvox.com/bills/us/112/hr835> The site is user friendly for registering either an organization or sending an individual letter to your Congressman.

On January 8th SAOVA and other concerned groups sent a joint letter to the House Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry in opposition to PUPS. The letter along with additional information about PUPS is posted on the SAOVA site <http://www.saova.org/PUPS2011.html>

As always, we encourage cross posting of these messages.

Susan Wolf

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