



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

**Stacey Ober, J.D.**  
Government Relations  
Regional Manager  
New England

May 6, 2025

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Bill Pluecker, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
100 State House Station, Cross Building, Room 214  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**RE: Oppose LD 1771, An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

Dear Chair Talbot Ross, Chair Pluecker, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club (AKC) is a not-for-profit organization that is recognized as a trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training. We advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion and promote the ideals of responsible dog ownership. We represent over 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including 29 in Maine, which represent thousands of dog owners. In 2024, AKC licensed and sanctioned 142 events in Maine where more than 11,100 dogs participated. Surveys estimate that exhibitors spend \$982 per show weekend, many of whom travel into Maine to participate.

**HISTORY:** LD 1771 is in response to citizen complaints made to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Animal Welfare Program (AWP). According to the AWP's most recent 2023 annual report, these complaints were noise/nuisance barking, dogs outside and tethered, and "sometimes allegations that these are, in fact, breeding facilities that fail to obtain a state breeding facility by instead maintaining a municipal kennel license". AWP reported they are rarely able to respond without statutory authority to enter or inspect these households because they would either need permission or a warrant. It is unclear if AWP sought any warrants to enforce its breeding kennel facility state license requirements. The report does note that if citizen complaints to any town go unanswered, citizens can file a complaint under 7 M.R.S. §3950-A, which authorizes AWP to investigate if the town is meeting its obligations. The 2023 report states that just one of the seven (7) §3950-A complaints filed with AWP related to a municipal kennel license. (2023 annual report, p. 16) Last September, AKC submitted to AWP a freedom of information request regarding the number, violation type and kennel license category for complaints filed. AWP responded that their records don't break down by category and do not systematically identify whether each complaint was against a licensee or not. They concluded that no report could be compiled that would provide the data requested.

**CURRENT AWP AUTHORITY:** Current AWP authority to penalize the unlicensed operation of a breeding kennel facility and other licensed facilities is at Chapter 723 §3938. Violation. The section allows the imposition of civil fines between \$50 and \$200 per day for unlicensed and licensed violations. Additional authority to enforce a licensee's noncompliance is at Chapter 723 §3936-A. Noncompliance; subsequent inspection required. Per Chapter 725 §3950-A. Official refusal or neglect of duty, municipal officials who fail to fulfill its animal welfare responsibilities under chapters 719, 720, 721, 725 and 727 commit a civil violation for which fines may be imposed and for an animal control officer, result in revocation of their certification.

**LD PROPOSAL:** LD 1771 would require a municipal “hobby” kennel owner to: (1) Apply for and maintain a \$50 state animal care facility license; (2) Annually submit proof of a kennel inspection completed by your town’s animal control officer (ACO) or a state humane agent if the town has no ACO, between the December 31 license expiration date and January 31; (3) Pay for and acquire individual municipal dog licenses for every dog owned (\$11 for each intact dog) due to the elimination of the option of receiving up to 10 kennel license tags for dogs owned under one \$42 municipal kennel license; and (4) Pay fines of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 per day for a violation. By eliminating the municipal kennel license, LD 1771 would also remove AWP’s oversight of municipal animal control officers who fail to fulfill their Chapter 721 §3923-C. Kennel license inspections.

***AKC strongly endorses the right to own, keep and breed dogs in a responsible and humane manner for hunting, show, training, field trials, sledding, competition, or exhibition purposes. We strongly oppose LD 1771 because it would negatively impact the municipal kennel owners whose dogs participate in those activities without solving the problems noted in the 2023 report.***

**LD 1771 DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM:** LD 1771 does nothing to strengthen the tools AWP may need to enforce the unlicensed operation of animal care facilities or solve the problems identified. The complaints in AWP’s 2023 report suggest that municipalities and/or their ACOs may not have the resources necessary to effectively enforce local animal ordinances and the municipal kennel duties. Some municipalities hire ACOs only for specific tasks such as retrieving strays. In the AWP’s Animal Welfare Advisory Council July 17, 2024, meeting minutes, it was stated that “a significant number of ACOs are functioning without certification, having either lapsed and not re-certified or having yet to complete initial certification”. Eliminating the municipal kennel license under Chapter 721 Dog Licenses, §3923-C and inserting a new §3932-B state kennel license under Chapter 723 Facility Licenses, that can be issued by the department only after an annual ACO inspection, does not fix municipal resource gaps, part-time ACOs, uncertified ACOs, or barking and tethering complaints. Under LD 1771, neither the AWP nor a kennel owner would have any authority to force the completion of an inspection by the municipal ACO. Yet, kennel owners would be mandated to successfully submit proof of one with their state kennel license application between the December 31 license expiration date and January 31 deadline. LD 1771 not only burdens kennel owners with increased kennel and dog license fees, but it also imposes foreseeable fines of up to \$200 per day for noncompliance with the annual 30-day renewal period.


**“HOBBY” KENNEL OWNERS ARE NOT COMMERCIAL FACILITIES:** LD 1771 would inappropriately categorize, license, and regulate hobby kennel owners as though they are commercial businesses. To improve Maine’s animal welfare laws, Chair Pluecker sponsored LD 103 and PL 2021 c. 99 was adopted. The law explains that “Animal care facility” means *any person that provides care, sustenance, housing, maintenance or other necessary care of an animal and includes, but is not limited to, veterinarians’ offices, boarding kennels, equine facilities, animal grooming facilities, animal shelters and animal day care facilities*. AWP has authority to issue state facility licenses to boarding kennels, breeding kennels, animal shelters and pet shops. Facilities refer to a place of public accommodation such as businesses and commercial entities that are open to the public and offer goods, services, and accommodations. In addition to needing commercial zoning approval, which may include acreage or fencing requirements, animal care facilities are subject to requirements designed to avoid the spread of infectious disease, such as impervious surfaces, isolation areas, drainage systems, and waste management protocols. They also typically address staffing and safety measures specific to infrastructure, such as fire suppression equipment, evacuation plans and other emergencies.

Under Maine's Animal Welfare Act at 7 §3907, "kennel" means 5 or more dogs kept in a single location under one ownership for breeding, hunting, show, training, field trials, sledding, competition or exhibition purposes. The sale or exchange of one litter of puppies within a 12-month period alone does not constitute the operation of a kennel. A hobby kennel is just that – a hobby. The owner has a pack of dogs, typically of one specific breed, which is for their personal private use. It is a home-based hobby that does not require special zoning approval, does not employ staff, has no commercial infrastructure, and is not licensed by the state as a facility. If a hobby kennel were issued a state facility "kennel license," experience has proven that legal confusion will ensue, and commercial requirements are subsequently imposed that a hobby breeder should not, and is not, able to comply with. AKC's concern is that LD 1771 is likely to result in dog owner attempts to avoid fees and go unnoticed or proceed with protecting their rights by filing litigation.

**AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH:** AKC agrees that preventing breaches of a community's peace and enforcing municipal dog laws is important. We encourage the committee to evaluate enforcement tools utilized by other states to address when an unlicensed person is maintaining an animal care facility and to consider strengthening AWP's authority at *Chapter 723 §3938. Violation*, and *§3936-A. Noncompliance; subsequent inspection required*.

We urge the committee to VOTE LD 1771, OUGHT NOT TO PASS. If I can be of any further assistance, I can be reached at [stacey.ober@akc.org](mailto:stacey.ober@akc.org) or (919) 816-3348. Thank you.

Regards,



Government Relations Regional Manager, New England

Cc: The Honorable Donna Bailey, Sponsor LD 1771  
Nancy Daniels, President, Federation of Maine Dog Clubs

# ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM

## ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2023



Amanda E. Beal  
Commissioner

Randy Charette  
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Deputy Commissioner

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# Maine's Animal Welfare Program Review for 2023

Our Mission: The Animal Welfare Program (AWP) ensures the humane treatment of animals through communication, education, and enforcement of animal welfare laws.

What we do: AWP develops and implements policies and programs to effectively address animal cruelty complaints; inspects and licenses animal shelters, pet stores, kennels, and animal research facilities; and enforces dog licensing.

## Staff:

### *Field staff*

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| • Acting Field Supervisor   | Chrissy MacFarland     |
| • District Humane Agent Aroostook County                          | Richard Guilbault, Jr. |
| • District Humane Agent Washington, Hancock Counties              | Douglas Radziewicz     |
| • District Humane Agent Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset Counties | Rachel Welch           |
| • District Humane Agent Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Kennebec Counties   | Nicole Doyle           |
| • District Humane Agent Franklin, Oxford, Androscoggin Counties   | William Muggle         |
| • District Humane Agent York, Cumberland Counties                 | Casey Fredette         |
| • District Humane Agent, Inspections                              | Reginald Manter        |

### *Administrative Staff*

- |                                   |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Director                        | Ronda Steciuk      |
| • Secretary Associate             | Thomas Rackliff    |
| • Office Associate II             | Danielle Trask     |
| • Planning and Research Assistant | Connor Egan        |
| • Assistant State Veterinarian    | Rachael Fiske, DVM |

*Note: AWP financial data is collected and reported on a fiscal year (July 1-June 30) basis. Program data is collected and reported on a calendar year basis. Unless labeled FY 2023, data on the following pages cover the period between January 1-December 31, 2023.*

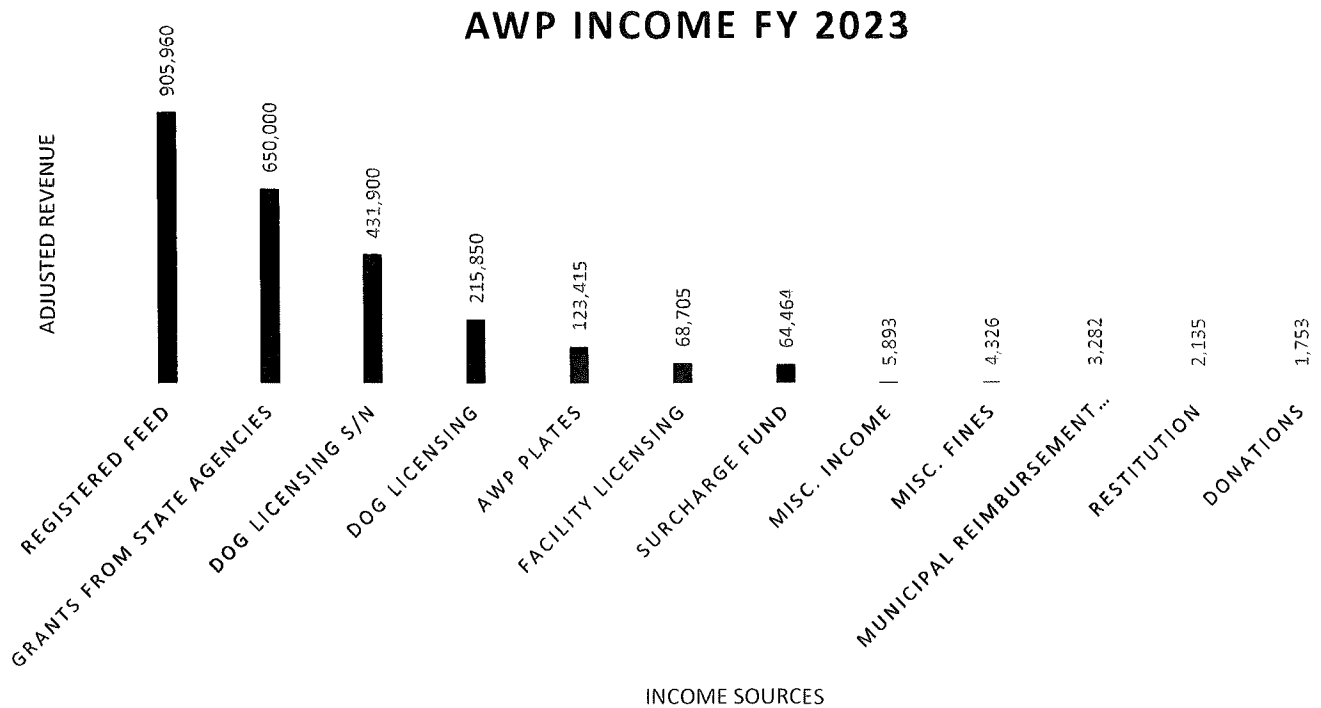
## Introduction

2023 was a year of building and change at AWP. In our 2022 annual report, we reported AWP's plans to target several areas of program operations for improvements: updated and more comprehensive yet efficient record keeping and documentation, working with staff to enhance cross-training and information sharing, and implementing additional safety measures for field staff. 2023 yielded additional focus areas, including ACO Certification training and tracking, office efficiencies, and hiring multiple positions.

One area that has remained stagnant is the duration of court cases. The 2021 annual report explained how COVID-related court backlogs that delayed the adjudication of animal seizure possession cases upended AWP's business model; in 2022, we reported a continuation of those delays in court proceedings. We were optimistic that in 2023, the pace of our hearings would pick up, but delays continued. This has continued to result in increased lengths of stays, and the associated costs for seized animals and veterinary care have risen significantly. As the financials shared below show, expenses relating to sheltering animals in 2023 were \$736,255, an increase of 46.65% over 2022; this represented 35.7% of AWP's expenditures in 2023, up from 27.5% in 2022.

# Funding for the Animal Welfare Program

Income FY 2023

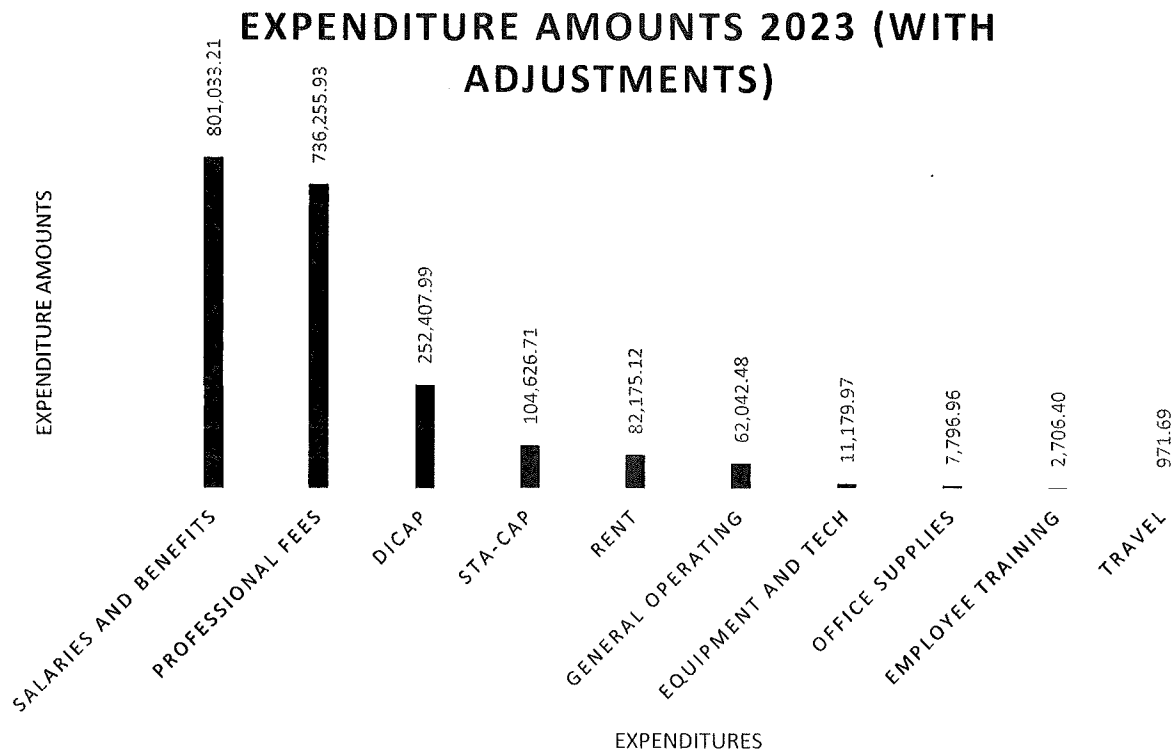


AWP Income FY 2023	
Registered Feed	\$905,960
Grants from State Agencies*	\$650,000
Dog Licensing S/N	\$431,990
Dog Licensing	\$215,850
AWP Plates	\$123,415
Facility Licensing	\$68,705
Surcharge fund	\$64,464
Municipal Reimbursement Dog Licensing**	\$ 3,282
Restitution	\$2,135
Donations	\$1,753
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,477,773.00</b>

*\*For FY2023, AWP received a one-time allocation of \$650,000 of general fund money in the supplemental budget to assist with the ongoing expense of a large seizure of animals in 2022. That matter was ultimately resolved by the Law Court in 2024.*

*\*\*When a dog is licensed online, the State receives the full fee, and we must disburse municipalities' portions back to them. This disbursement does not occur until municipalities reach a certain threshold; thus, this fund will have a positive amount at the end of FY 2023.*

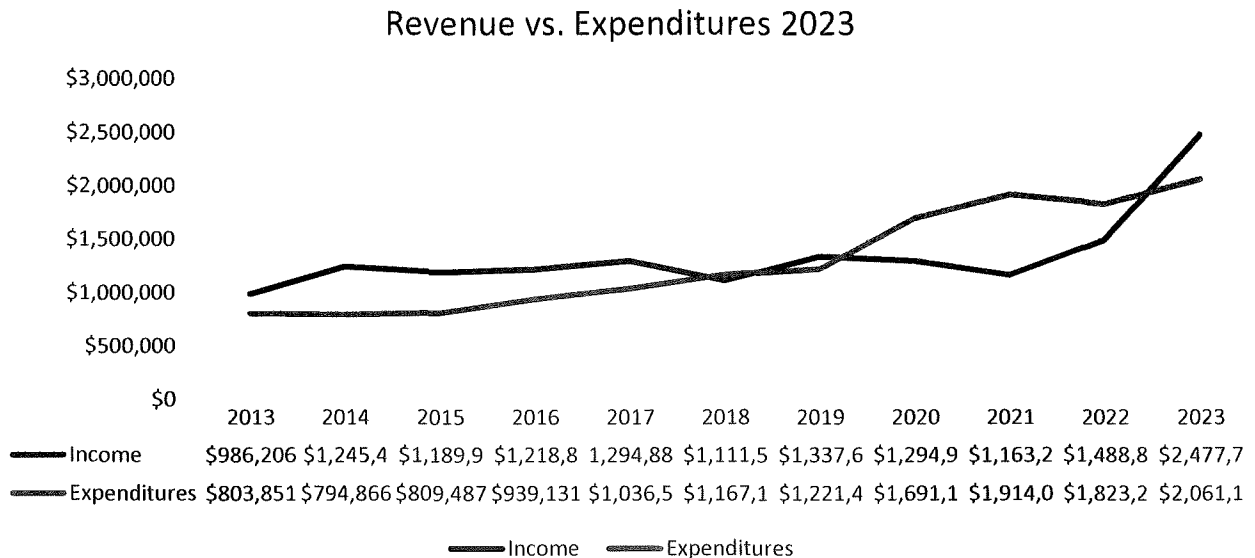
**Expenditures FY 2022**



<b>Expenses FY 2022</b>	
Salaries and Benefits	\$801,833.21
Professional Fees*	\$736,255.93
DICAP	\$252,407.99
Sta-Cap	\$104,626.71
Rent	\$82,175.12
General Operating	\$62,042.48
Equipment and Tech	\$11,179.97
Office Supplies	\$7,796.96
Employee Training	\$2,706.40
Travel	\$971.69
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,061,196.46</b>

*\*Professional Fees primarily consist of payments to shelters for boarding and veterinarians for the care of animals in AWP's custody.*

## Review of Revenue Versus Expenditures



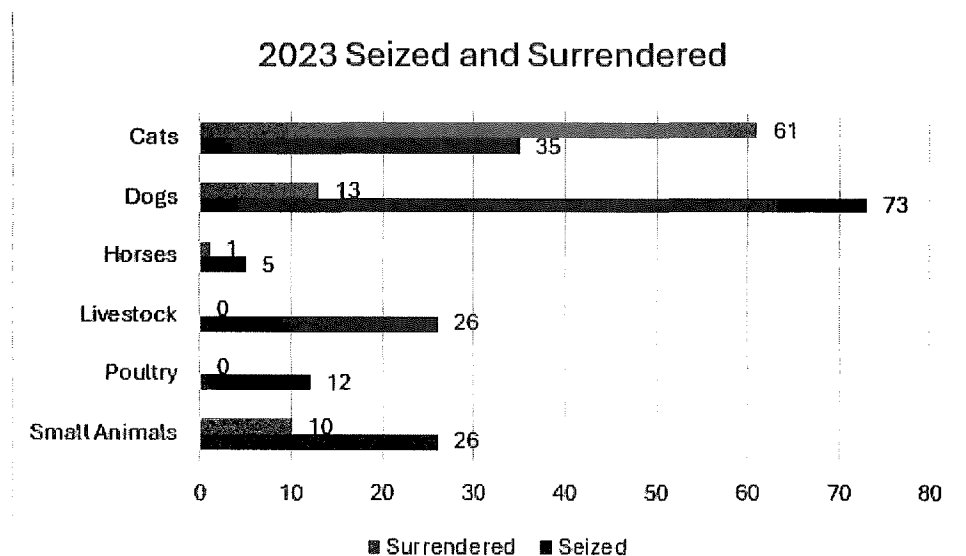
As illustrated in the above graphic, AWP's expenses kept pace with revenue between 2014 and 2019. However, COVID-era backlogs in the courts meant AWP began to have to hold seized animals with shelter partners for more extended amounts of time than what had been typical. These longer stays— frequently for animals with little to no veterinary care before the seizure — coupled with a significant increase in veterinary costs and a full year of realizing the 2022 statutory increase of required payments to shelters for housing seized animals, resulted in our seized animal expenses increasing more than 500% since FY 2019, while our total revenue (minus the one-time special grant funding in early 2023, but including the feed registration fee increase discussed below) has only increased by 36%. It is only due to the special funding that AWP was granted at the end of FY 2022 and the increase in feed registration fees that allowed a net positive outcome in FY 2023. AWP's work is unsustainable without an increase in its income stream.

The feed registration fee increase that passed in the second session of the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature and became effective August 8, 2022, is a start to improving AWP's financial viability. The new 80% AWP fee share (the remaining 20% going to the General Fund – a change from a prior 50/50 split) resulted in a gross increase of \$336,320 in FY 2023 over 2022. While this has helped alleviate the expense increases borne by AWP, it doesn't cover the ongoing and increasing costs of administering the AWP. Without the special grant funding, AWP would have run at a deficit again in 2023. Dog licensing is our second most significant funding source; however, it does not provide the revenue intended or necessary to support AWP's work. Dog license fees have not been increased since 2007. AWP's portion of the licensing fees, \$10 for unaltered and \$3 for altered dogs, would need to be adjusted to \$15.20 and \$5.46 to keep pace

with inflation. That 52% increase, in addition to the pet food surcharge share increase implemented in 2023, would have allowed AWP to cover our 2023 costs. It is important to note, however, that AWP had reduced costs in 2023 due to being understaffed for much of the year. Full staffing would require additional funding beyond a license fee adjustment and the increase in feed registration fees.

## Cruelty Investigations

In 2023, the AWP office dispatched 308 complaints to Humane Agents, a 45% increase over 2022. Many of the complaints we responded to involved more than one type of violation. For example, reports might list improper care, shelter, living conditions, sustenance, or lack of medical care on a single complaint. Agents advise owners about proper care, available veterinarians, and feed sources. They will often check back even when a case is closed to ensure the animal and the owner are doing well. Dogs and cats are the most common subjects of complaints, but Humane Agents also spend time working with farmers on livestock issues. Humane Agents use community policing methods when enforcing animal welfare laws and have had great success in educating animal owners on their responsibilities as animal owners. Agents use education to resolve many of the complaints. Only a few require tougher enforcement actions, such as summoning for violations or seeking a court order to remove the animals.



As reported last year on January 28, 2022, AWP obtained a warrant and seized 110 cats and 26 poultry from one location in Wales, Maine. Many animals required immediate and significant veterinary attention; unfortunately, some were beyond what veterinary care could provide. This case was delayed and continued several times, and we finally received a possession order in August 2022. The defendant filed a timely appeal, and the animals remained in the custody of AWP, awaiting an appeal decision. The cost to the State for housing and providing veterinary care reached \$1,362,010.34. While AWP prevailed in the Superior Court appeal pending as of the writing of last year's report, that decision was

further appealed to the Law Court. The Law Court ultimately denied the defendant's appeal in mid-2024, and AWP's shelter partners have since rehomed the animals.

## **Companion Animal Sterilization (Help Fix ME)**

Since 2005, AWP has been operating the Companion Animal Sterilization Fund, best known as the Help Fix Me (HFM) program. Established to encourage qualified pet owners to sterilize their cats and dogs and to help cover the cost of those sterilizations, HFM reduces the number of animals in shelters. This reduction helps to decrease euthanasia and increase adoptions. Since 2009, Help Fix ME has helped pet owners spay and neuter over 24,000 animals. For the past five years, the adoption rate in Maine shelters has been 95%, while the euthanasia rate is around 3%. In comparison, in 2011, the adoption rate was 73%, and the euthanasia rate was 27%.

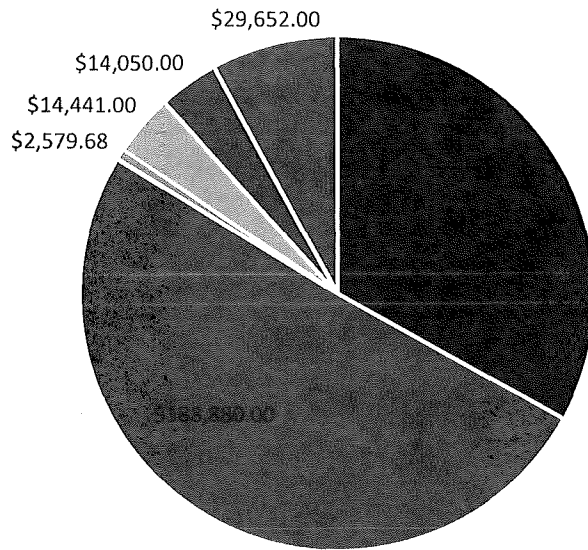
At the writing of the 2022 report, AWP had commenced rulemaking to address changes in the law per LD 1828, which directed AWP to issue an RFP to engage a contractor to administer HFM. AWP had begun drafting the RFP documents and received commitments from four individuals to serve on the RFP committee when LD 595 was filed. The passage of LD 595 caused AWP to pause the RFP process and undertake new rulemaking, which was completed in May 2024. The final RFP was developed during the Summer of 2024, and, as of this writing, DACF is awaiting permission from the Maine Division of Procurement Services to release the RFP.

In January of 2023, AWP implemented the AWAC's recommendation to begin setting aside 50% of all program revenue to create a starting fund to be available for a third-party administrator. The set-aside continued longer than expected due to the LD 595 delay in the RFP process. Upon AWAC's recommendation, the set-aside has been capped at \$90,000 and is readily available for the program transfer.

In 2022, funds pooled from unused vouchers during COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 were joined with 2022 income and concentrated effort on voucher distribution was undertaken by AWP, resulting in over 3,700 spay and neuter surgeries provided through the program. The program entered 2023 with a funding backlog exhausted and tasked with setting aside fifty percent of revenue to ensure startup funding for a new administrator when the RFP process is complete. In 2023, 1,286 vouchers were issued for surgeries, \$90,000 has been set aside for a new administrator, and 1,201 surgeries have been verified and paid. The pet owner's or keeper's location was verified for 1,172 vouchers, with 29 vouchers having unverified locations. AWP also streamlined internal processes for Help Fix ME invoices. Complete and properly submitted invoices are now moved through our office within a week and typically paid out within 30 days.

**HFM Income FY 2023**

HFM Income FY 2023

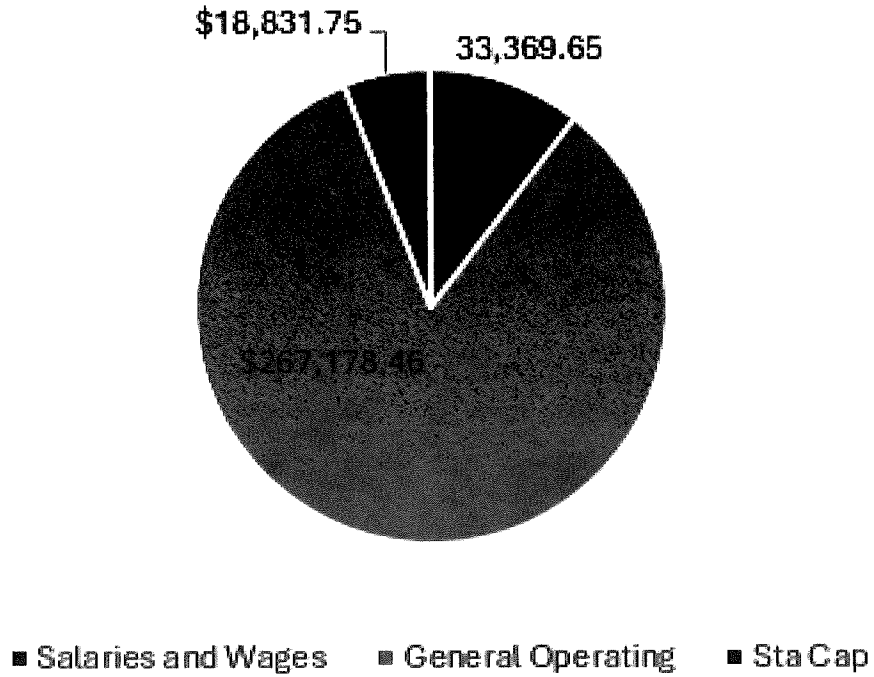


- ANIMAL WELFARE PLATE
- SURCHARGE FUND
- EARNINGS ON INVESTMENTS
- PRIV CONTR FOR OTHER PURPOSES (includes co-pays)
- MISC SERVICES & FEES (includes pet shop surcharge)
- MISC-INCOME (includes tax checkoff)

<b>HFM Income FY 2023</b>	
AWP License Plate	\$123,415.00
Surcharge Fund	\$188,880.00
HFM Co-Pays	\$14,441.00
Misc Service & fees	\$14,050.00
Tax check-off	\$29,662.00
Interest	\$2,579.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$373,017.68</b>

**HFM Expenditures 2023**

**HFM Expenditures FY 2023**



<b>HFM Expenditures FY 2023</b>	
Salaries and Wages	\$33,369.65
General Operating	\$267,178.46
Sta Cap	\$18,831.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$319,379.86</b>

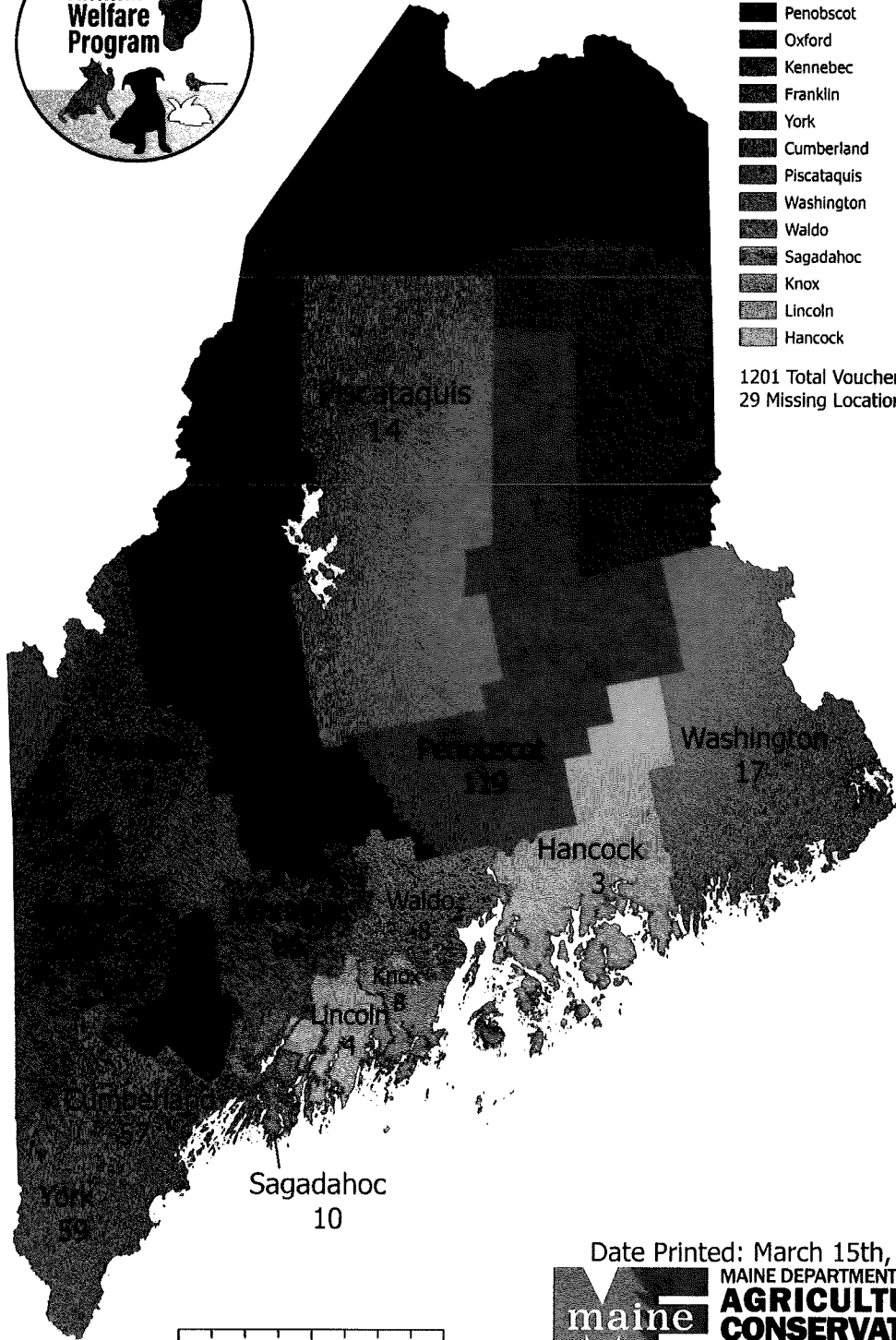
**\*\$90,000 was set aside in 2023 to provide a start-up fund for a third-party administrator**

# Companion Animal Sterilization Fund Vouchers paid calendar year 2023

## By County



- Aroostook
- Androscoggin
- Somerset
- Penobscot
- Oxford
- Kennebec
- Franklin
- York
- Cumberland
- Piscataquis
- Washington
- Waldo
- Sagadahoc
- Knox
- Lincoln
- Hancock



1201 Total Vouchers  
29 Missing Location Data

0 15 30 60 Miles

Date Printed: March 15th, 2024  
**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF**  
**AGRICULTURE**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**& FORESTRY**

**Companion Animal Sterilization Fund (HFM) Vouchers Paid in Calendar Year 2023 by County  
Compared to County's Percentage of Total Maine Population**

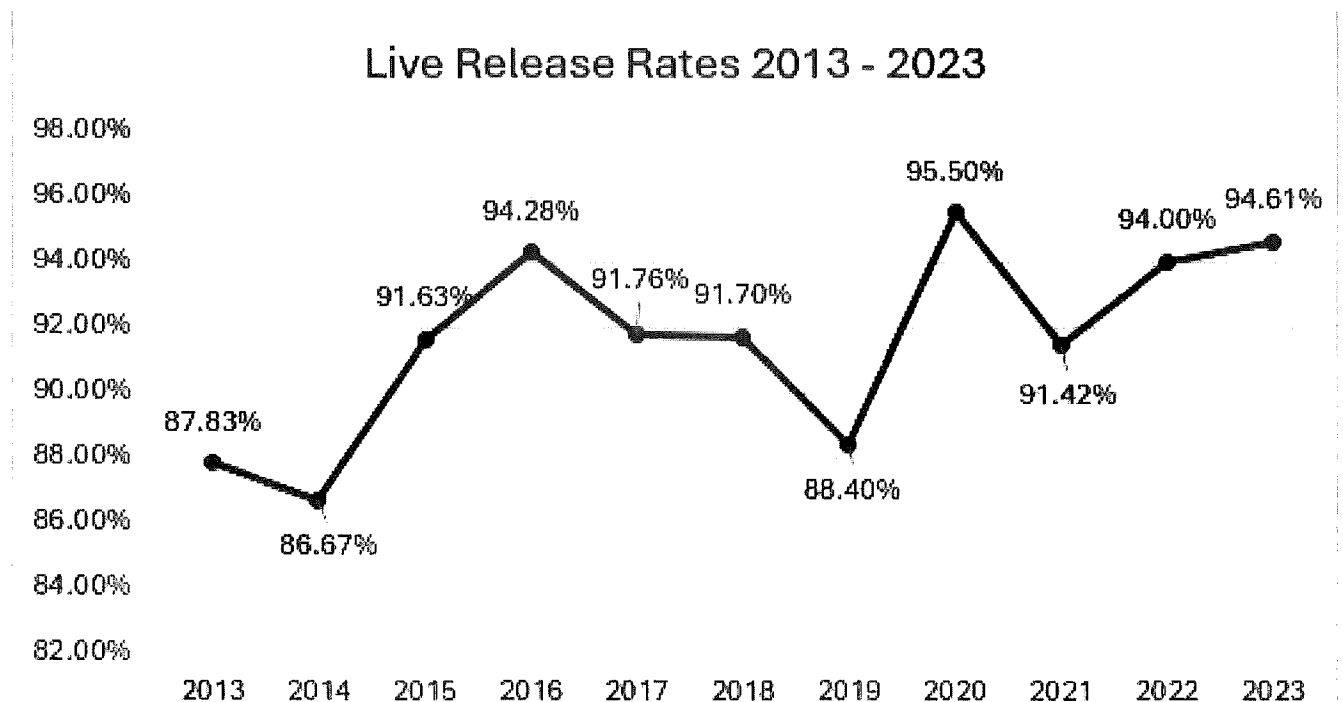
<b>PLACE/COUNTY</b>	<b>Number of Vouchers Given</b>	<b>Percentage of Vouchers Given</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Maine Population (July 1st, 2023)</b>
<b>Aroostook</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>4.82%</b>
<b>Androscoggin</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>17.06%</b>	<b>8.15%</b>
<b>Somerset</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>14.41%</b>	<b>3.68%</b>
<b>Penobscot</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>10.15%</b>	<b>11.09%</b>
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>9.30%</b>	<b>4.29%</b>
<b>Kennebec</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>7.33%</b>	<b>9.06%</b>
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>5.29%</b>	<b>2.19%</b>
<b>York</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>5.03%</b>	<b>15.64%</b>
<b>Cumberland</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4.86%</b>	<b>22.19%</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1.45%</b>	<b>2.26%</b>
<b>Piscataquis</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1.19%</b>	<b>1.25%</b>
<b>Sagadahoc</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.85%</b>	<b>2.69%</b>
<b>Waldo</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>2.90%</b>
<b>Knox</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>2.97%</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.34%</b>	<b>2.61%</b>
<b>Hancock</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.25%</b>	<b>4.09%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>99.95%</b>	<b>99.90%</b>

## Animal Shelter Survey

AWP has surveyed all licensed animal shelters in Maine since 2011, gathering extensive data on euthanasia and live release rates. These data points shed light on how Maine's animal shelters have changed over the past two decades, providing vital data. However, beyond our survey, AWP also acknowledges changes in animal sheltering and the critical work shelters do in their communities.

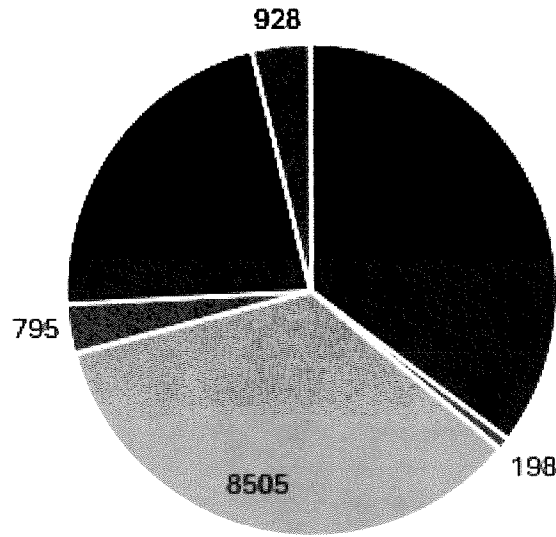
Seventy-one of 139 licensed shelters and rescues responded to the 2023 survey, yielding data from 51% of the licensed shelters in the state. Based on shelter feedback last year, the Department revamped the survey presentation to improve the response rate of licensed shelters and rescues in the 2023 survey. Response rates remained low, particularly among smaller organizations, and the Department will continue to seek pathways to engage shelters and rescues in future surveys.

This year's report relies on a Live Release Rate chart to inform about all animals coming into Maine shelters. The ASPCA defines "Live Release Rate" as Live Outcomes divided by Intake. Live outcome numbers include adoptions, return to owner, return to field, transfers, and other lifesaving programs allowing animals to leave the shelter alive. Based on the shelters that responded to the survey, Maine saw a slight increase in live release rate in 2023 over 2022. Shelter intake increased by 13% in 2023 over 2022, reflecting a national trend in sheltering.



**INTAKE METRICS**

**2023 Cat and Dog Intake**

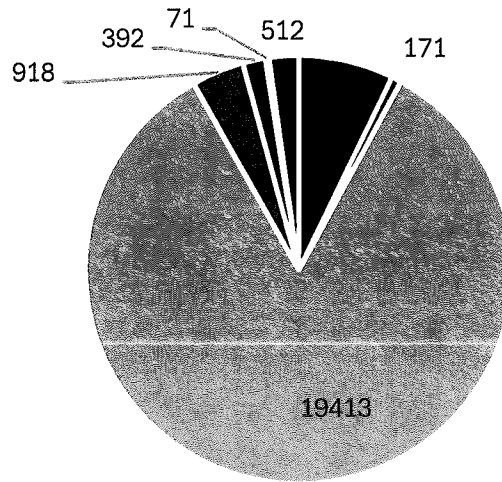


■ Stray ■ Seized ■ Surrendered ■ Transfer within ME ■ Import ■ Born

	<b>Dog and Cat Intake</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Cat</b>
Stray	8627	2014	6613
Seized	198	146	52
Surrendered	8505	2147	6358
Transfer within ME	795	61	744
Import	5383	3959	1424
Born	928	151	778

**ANIMAL OUTCOMES**

**2023 Dog and Cat Outcome**



- Return to Owner (RTO) ■ Return to Field (RTF) ■ Adoption ■ Euthanasia
- Transfer Within Maine ■ Export ■ Died/Lost in Care

	<b>Animal Outcome</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Cat</b>
Return to Owner (RTO)	1659	926	733
Return to Field (RTF)	171	0	171
Adoption	19413	6490	12923
Euthanasia	918	237	681
Transfer Within Maine	392	67	325
Export	71	34	37
Died/Lost in Care	512	38	474

## Licensed Animal Facilities in Maine

AWP is responsible for licensing and inspecting all animal shelters, pet stores, boarding kennels, breeding kennels, and research facilities in the State of Maine. In 2023, there were 551 of these facilities in Maine, categorized as follows:

- Animal Shelters & Rescues – 139 (+3)
- Boarding Kennels – 231 (+4)
- Breeding Kennels – 134 (-23)
- Pet Stores – 36 (no change)
- Research Facilities – 11 (-2)

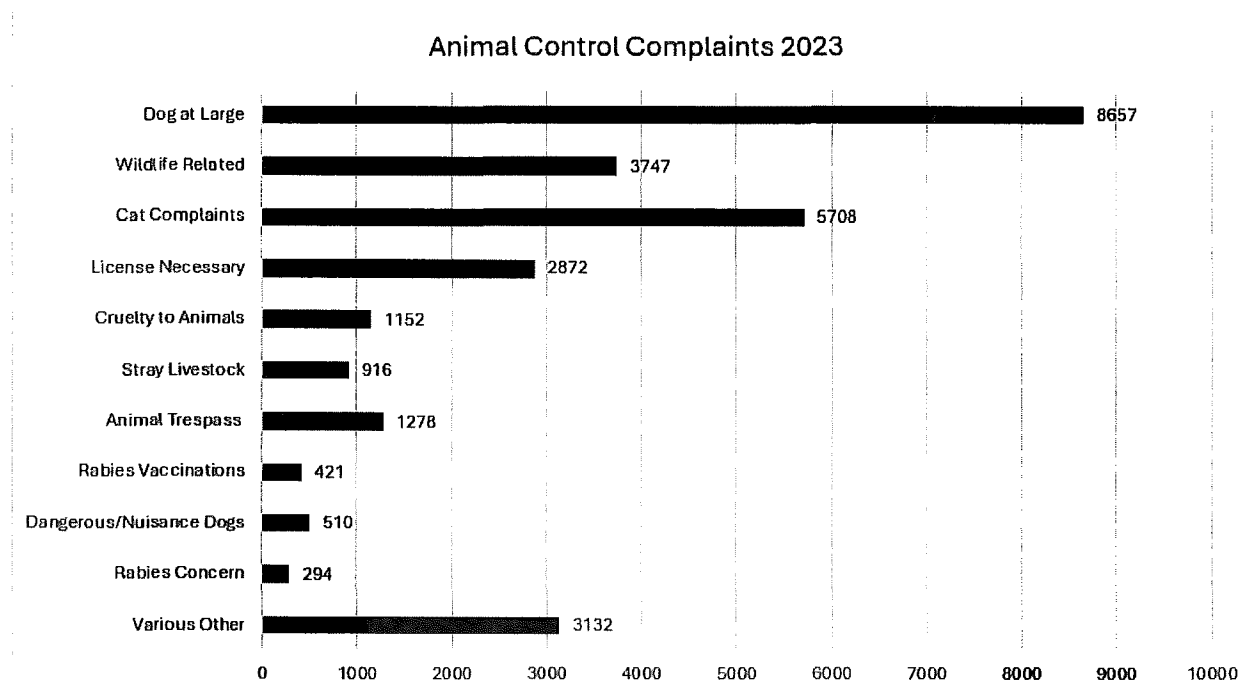
AWP Humane Agents work with these facilities to maintain compliance and prevent disease outbreaks. Our 2022 report reported that COVID-19, staffing, scheduling issues, and the number of cruelty cases contributed to slowed inspection response times. In December 2023, we filled the position of District Humane Agent-Inspections, addressing the backlog of inspections and then maintaining annual inspections for all facilities in coordination with our geographically focused District Humane Agents. Additionally, we have revised our standard operating procedures for facility scheduling and inspections to ensure a uniform approach throughout the state.

Municipal kennels have recently become the focus of a handful of impassioned complaints to AWP and AWAC. The basis of these calls or emails is often noise nuisance due to barking, dogs being housed outside and tethered to dog houses or other structures, and sometimes allegations that these are, in fact, breeding facilities that fail to obtain a state breeding facility by instead maintaining a municipal kennel license. These kennels are licensed under Chapter 721 (Dog Licenses) §3923-C; they are not state-licensed facilities. They are inspected by animal control officers and licensed by municipalities; AWP is rarely able to assist citizens in these matters as our humane agents do not have statutory authority to enter or inspect the premises without permission or a warrant. Citizens report that their complaints to towns often go uninvestigated and unresolved, expressing significant frustration with these situations and escalating their concerns to AWP and beyond. In such situations, citizens may file complaints under 7 M.R.S. §3950-A, Official Refusal or Neglect of Duty, to assert that ACOs or town officials refuse or intentionally fail to perform their statutorily required municipal animal welfare duties. Making this filing authorizes AWP to investigate whether municipalities have met their obligations. To date, one of the seven §3950-A complaints filed in 2023 was related to municipal kennel issues.

## Animal Control Officer (ACO) Reporting

This is the fifth year of collecting and reporting data on ACO complaints. This information shows the different types of complaints Maine ACOs are responding to and helps AWP plan for future training and look for potential issues that need to be addressed through rule, law, or procedural changes. As with the Animal Shelter survey, the Department revamped the survey presentation and collection process for 2023 data to improve the response rate. The 2023 Animal Control Survey yielded a 52% increase in responses from Maine towns over 2022, jumping from 167 responses to 254 responses. While the gross number of complaints shown in the chart below has increased from what 2022 produced, in most cases,

these appear to correlate directly with the increase in responses: there is a 51% increase in dog complaints and a 52% increase in responses. However, this is not the case with cat complaints, which have increased by 113% over 2022. Cats have been of growing concern throughout the state over the last year; it is suspected that the pause in spay/neuter efforts during COVID-19 resulted in a backslide in population control, and we are now seeing increased numbers of cats throughout the state.



## ACO Training

ACO Training was a priority for AWP in 2023. AWP teamed up with the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals (MSSPA) to offer a daylong Equine Training for animal control officers. This 8-hour learning opportunity had a 4-hour classroom component provided both in person and via Zoom for those who could not attend in person, as well as a hands-on 4-hour element with the horses at MSSPA. Twenty-one ACOs participated in the September Equine Training. In July, AWP launched "Lunch & Learns for ACOs," an ongoing series of 1-hour online training on the last Friday of each month. Presentations on topics from Rabies to hoarding to legal paperwork and documentation have been well attended by ACOs from across the state. There has been a growing attendance at the Lunch & Learns, with the largest having 79 participants. AWP continues to offer online certification training for animal control officers, expanding the training to include all statutorily required subject matter for basic and advanced training. Online training is convenient and cost-effective for municipalities, and it provides comprehensive training in basic investigatory techniques, response to suspected rabies cases, handling calls regarding dog licensing and immunizations, and managing interactions with the public. In late 2023, AWP began working with the Midcoast Humane Society in Brunswick to offer quarterly training for new ACOs (and any ACO wanting a refresher) on dog and cat body language and using essential ACO tools. The first training occurred on March 15, 2024, with 34 participants.

AWP and AWAC worked together in 2023 to update the criteria for qualifying training to fulfill continuing education credit requirements. AWAC's ACO subcommittee spent significant time researching and developing annual training guidelines. The formal recommendations, which include five core subject areas to be completed on a three-year rotational basis and a structure for qualification of training and training hours, were made to AWP in the fall, and AWP launched implementation in January 2024. Additionally, AWP has launched a tracking process for ACO certification, which requires ACOs to submit their training information to AWP annually to ensure compliance and identify certification lapses.

## **Animal Welfare Advisory Council (AWAC)**

In 2023, the Animal Welfare Advisory Council met ten times and provided guidance and recommendations to the AWP on numerous issues. Subcommittees focusing on legislation, investigating regionalization of animal control, animal control officer certification and training, solutions to Dog Licensing challenges, and fundraising for AWP are active. Three seats were filled in 2023, including that of an animal control officer, a cooperative extension agent or specialist, and a state animal advocacy group representative. AWP appreciates the work of the current AWAC members and looks forward to continuing to make strides together in 2024.

The AWAC members are:

1	Kim Mclaughlin	Represents Municipal Interests
2	Ruthann Weist	Animal Control Officer
3	Katie Lisnik	Represents Licensed Animal Shelters
4	Frank Billings	Represents Licensed Boarding Kennels
5	Vacant	Represents Licensed Pet Shops
6	Kathleen Benard	Owner of a Pet and Represents the Interests of the Public
7	Bonnie Martinolich	An Attorney with Experience in Animal Welfare Law
8	Jessica Matulis, DVM	Veterinarian who is or has been Licensed to Practice in the State
9	Dana Hill, DVM	A Cooperative Extension Agent or Specialist
10	Casey Cole, DVM	Experience in Equine Care
11	Julie Ann Smith	Experience in Livestock Representing a Statewide Farming Organization
12	Dennis Morelli	Represents a State-based Animal Advocacy Group
13	Vacant	Holds a Kennel Licensed Issued Under Section 3923-C
14	Sharon St. John	Represents Licensed Breeding Kennels

**Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS**  
**Part 9: ANIMAL WELFARE**  
**Chapter 723: FACILITY LICENSES**

**§3936-A. Noncompliance; subsequent inspection required**

If, upon inspection under [section 3936 \(../title7sec3936.html\)](#), the commissioner or the commissioner's designee finds a facility licensed under this chapter to be in violation of this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall issue a written notice describing the violation, the required corrective action to be taken and the date by which the correction must be made. No fee is charged for the first follow-up inspection. If the corrective action has not been taken within the specified period and 2 or more follow-up inspections are needed in any calendar year, the department shall charge the licensee a fee equal to 50% of the original license fee for each follow-up inspection. The original notice of a violation must inform the licensee of the fee charged for follow-up inspections. [PL 2009, c. 403, §8 (NEW).]

If the person operating the facility fails to complete corrective actions by the date noted in the original notice or a subsequent date specified by the department, the department may revoke, suspend or refuse to renew a license issued under this chapter pending an administrative proceeding held in accordance with [Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 5 \(../title5sch375sec0.html\)](#). [PL 2009, c. 403, §8 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2009, c. 403, §8 (NEW).

The Revisor's Office cannot provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public.  
If you need legal advice, please consult a qualified attorney.

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**Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS**  
**Part 9: ANIMAL WELFARE**  
**Chapter 723: FACILITY LICENSES**

**§3938. Violation**

A person maintaining an animal shelter, boarding kennel, breeding kennel or pet shop without having obtained a license, or after a license has been revoked or suspended, commits a civil violation for which a forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 a day may be adjudged. [PL 1993, c. 657, §36 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 383, §3 (NEW). PL 1993, c. 468, §14 (AMD). PL 1993, c. 657, §36 (AMD).

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**Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS**  
**Part 9: ANIMAL WELFARE**  
**Chapter 725: MUNICIPAL DUTIES**

**§3950-A. Official refusal or neglect of duty**

**1. Violation.** A mayor, municipal officer, clerk, town or city manager, administrative assistant to the mayor, town or city councilor, dog recorder of unorganized territories, constable, police officer, sheriff or animal control officer commits a civil violation if that person refuses or intentionally fails to perform the duties imposed by:

**A. This chapter;** [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**B. Chapter 719 ([../title7ch719sec0.html](#));** [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**C. Chapter 720 ([../title7ch720sec0.html](#));** [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**D. Chapter 721 ([../title7ch721sec0.html](#));** [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**E. Chapter 725 ([../title7ch725sec0.html](#));** or [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**F. Chapter 727 ([../title7ch727sec0.html](#)).** [PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**2. Penalty.** A person who violates [subsection 1 \(\[../title7sec3950-A.html\]\(#\)\)](#) commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$500 and costs may be adjudged and, for an animal control officer, revocation of that person's certification as an animal control officer may be imposed.

[PL 2021, c. 99, §9 (AMD).]

**3. Investigation.** The commissioner, at the commissioner's own instance or upon written complaint made to the commissioner by another person, shall investigate an alleged refusal or neglect of duty by a municipal officer.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

**4. Prosecution.** The commissioner shall direct proceedings, actions and prosecutions to be instituted to enforce all laws relating to animals and to the liability of municipal officers and their agents for failure, neglect or refusal to comply with the laws relating to animals.

[PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. B, §21 (NEW); PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. X, §2 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 383, §3 (NEW). PL 1995, c. 490, §18 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 557, §2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 690, §33 (AMD). PL 2003, c. 452, §B21 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 452, §X2 (AFF). PL 2009, c. 343, §22 (AMD). PL 2021, c. 99, §9 (AMD).

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Data for this page extracted on 1/07/2025 11:10:17.

7/17/2024 1 pm Animal Welfare Advisory Council Meeting minutes (called to order 1:34)

Members in Attendance:

Katie Lisnik (Animal Shelters)  
Dr. Jessica Matulis (Veterinarian) Sharon St. John (Licensed Breeding Kennels)  
Bonnie Martinolich (Attorney experienced in animal welfare)  
Dennis Morelli (State-Based Advocacy Group)  
Dr. Dana Hill (Cooperative Extension Agent or Specialist, joined at 2:01)  
Kim McLaughlin (Municipal Interests) Ruthann Weist (Animal Control Officer)  
Julie Ann Smith (livestock/statewide farming organization)

Dr. Rachael Fiske -AWP, Ronda Steciuk -AWP Director, Danielle Trask-AWP

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

June Minutes – Motion to approve by Kim McLaughlin, Second Sharon St. John, Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

2. AWP Updates:

- a. Director Steciuk provided the AWP Report to AWAC for June, as well as the Help Fix ME financial reports.
- b. Director Steciuk provided the update that the Chapter 702 Rules (for Help Fix ME) were reposted on the Secretary of State’s website and are effective as of June 18, 2024.
- c. Director Steciuk reported that she had contacted the Procurement department again about a date for an “RFP 101” meeting but had not heard back. She will check in again.

3. Topic Reports

- a. Legislative (Katie Lisnik in Dr. Cole’s absence):
  - I. The two bills from last year—the Rabies Vaccinator Bill and the Kennel Bill—are planned to move forward this year. Both have sponsors (if they win in November). Dr. Cole will be asked to circulate both bill drafts to the members of AWAC so that they can come prepared to discuss each at the next meeting.
  - II. The possibility of a bill adding language to allow the use of subcommittees within AWAC was discussed. Kim McLaughlin felt that using subcommittees was important to make primary meetings more efficient. It was discussed that subcommittee meetings have the same public requirements as regular meetings. Director Steciuk added that there are positives for subcommittees but that the Department could not commit to providing a location and facilitating multiple subcommittee meetings each month as the resources are not available. Katie Lisnik commented that some others potentially could provide a location and meeting facilitation. Director Steciuk agreed that the Department could provide notice and

post any meetings upon request. Bonnie Martinolich asked if bringing multiple/additional bills would or could reduce the likelihood of success on the other two bills. Katie Hansberry (HSUS/Maine Federation of Humane Societies) was called upon for any insight she could provide regarding this question from her experience with the Maine legislature. Katie responded that, in her experience, there would likely be no concern with adding another bill when we're discussing three total bills. Maybe if fifteen were being brought, it could cause challenges. Bonnie and Katie L will take a stab at a bill's first draft to add subcommittee language and circulate it to AWAC members before the next meeting.

- b. ACO Regionalization (Bonnie Martinolich and Dennis Morelli): We are still collecting data. Some towns were responsive to initial letters and later email inquiries. Any AWAC member who can assist in contacting towns should reach out to Dennis.
- c. ACO Certification and Training (Dennis Morelli and Ruthann Weist): There is interest in revamping the certification training. Director Steciuk provided information regarding what the Department sees as more problematic than any expressed concerns with initial training, that a significant number of ACOs are functioning without certification, having either lapsed and not re-certified or having yet to complete initial certification. AWP has been working on ACO certification and training matters for over a year, starting with the guidance AWAC gave a year ago on restructuring annual training (post-certification) for ACOs. Once that structure was adopted, AWP started determining the current certification status of all Maine ACOs by asking all ACOs to provide their training proof for 2020-2023. Some ACOs did so; others did not. In January, packets of information regarding the new training structure, municipal update forms for those who did not submit their form, and information regarding the status of their ACOs certification. That status notification provided a link to upload training documents and information about recertification if the ACO had lapsed. In the weeks following, some ACOs uploaded their documentation; others signed up to recertify. Some submitted partial information; some submitted none, some signed up and completed recertification promptly, and others signed up and have not started the coursework. AWP continues to review the information submitted but will again be mailing information out to towns that have ACOs that are still showing as lapsed or uncertified. Director Steciuk emphasized that they expect some ACOs to be certified, but AWP has yet to receive information from them to move them to certified status. AWP will soon mail additional information requests to towns with ACOs still showing as uncertified. Enforcement is problematic because the statute does not provide specific penalties for lapsing certifications; the administrative options of suspending or revoking certification do not work with a certification that is lapsed because there is no certification to revoke or suspend. Tying the matters up in District court with civil actions is also problematic.
- d. Fundraising (Katie Lisnik)- Working on license plate flyers and potential Subaru participation.
- e. Dog Licensing (Dr. Matulis)-

- I. Rabies/microchip clinics- AWP working on this. Discussion of the need to coordinate these to assist with needs that will be implemented by CDC for entering the US starting August 1. Dr. Matulis clarified that an iso-compliant microchip is required prior to a rabies vaccine to enter the US. The microchip number must be on the rabies certificate. There are also forms that must be completed and the rabies has to be given at least 28 days prior to US entry. Dr. Fiske (AWP) provided the link to CDC requirements/information is here <http://CDC.gov/dogtravel>
- II. Director Steciuk met with MVMA last week and there is a plan to do a rabies survey this fall. Director Steciuk is working on obtaining a listing of all veterinary clinics in Maine (vs. individual veterinarians); members provided a reminder that a)there are traveling veterinarians who provide vaccines and b)shelters provide rabies. Both should be included in the survey.
- III. The Dog Licensing Database will be in place for the 2025 licensing season. AWP is working on training for Town Clerks that will be conducted via multiple mediums in August.

4. New Business:

- A. Written Comment form for public comments- the draft was screen-shared by Connor Egan (AWP), and suggestions were made for edits:
  - a. Add comment requirements/policy and require check box agreement
  - b. Change the address line to only require the municipality of residence
  - c. The length of the comment was discussed, but the form doesn't allow a change in length.
  - d. Director Steciuk will contact AAG and ask if written comments must be read at meetings aloud or if members can read them and provide a summary at the meeting or read them, select those they wish to discuss at the meeting, and attach those not selected for discussion/action to the minutes.

5. Public Comment-

- a. Joseph Drazek asked (in chat) if draft bills would be posted for the public to comment on them. Katie Lisnik replied that they would be screen-shared during the meeting but not posted ahead of time/posted for the public.
- b. Kerrie LeClair (MSSPA) commented that the public comment form should include a statement that the comments will be posted publicly. Director Steciuk agreed to add that to the form. She also commented that having uncertified ACOs could potentially cause problems in court cases. Ruthann Weist commented that she hadn't been asked about her status in court but a good defense attorney likely could bring this up.
- c. Katie Hansberry (Pres. Maine Federation of Humane Societies, State Director HSUS) informed AWAC that HSUS has funding for training available. Director Steciuk asked if this was for an event or ongoing training, and Katie clarified that this is usually event (or possibly a training series) funding.

6. 3:20 pm -Motion to Adjourn by Kim McLaughlin, second by Bonnie Martinolich. Unanimous approval. Motion passes.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

H.P. 69 - L.D. 103

An Act To Improve the Animal Welfare Laws

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

**Sec. 1.** 7 MRSA §3906-B, sub-§12, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. C, §12, is repealed.

**Sec. 2.** 7 MRSA §3906-B, sub-§12-A is enacted to read:

**12-A. Right to call and designate assistance.** The commissioner may employ a person considered necessary to assist in a response to a natural or man-made disaster affecting animals. A person called and employed for assistance shall proceed to help resolve the natural or man-made disaster as directed by the commissioner or the commissioner's designee.

A. A person considered necessary to assist in a response must receive compensation for services at the prevailing rate in the State, except that animal control officers, veterinarians, animal shelter staff or other groups used outside the State may receive pay at their usual rates. Equipment may be provided by individuals or groups during a response. Equipment used in a response must, upon application, be compensated for at an amount fixed by the state in which the response occurred. A person responding under this subsection may be provided with subsistence pay during the response.

B. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall promptly prepare a report of the commissioner's or the designee's investigation of the response detailing the cause of the natural or man-made disaster and recommendations for future prevention and response. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall prepare and include in the report a detailed statement of expenses incurred immediately after the natural or man-made disaster on forms provided by the department.

All requests for reimbursement must be presented to the commissioner or the commissioner's designee within 60 days after demobilization or become void. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may extend the time as long as a preliminary report has been made.

The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall examine all invoices presented to the State for reimbursement or direct payment. After items not qualifying for

reimbursement have been deducted, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall approve the remaining items for payment.

**Sec. 3. 7 MRSA §3906-C, sub-§1, ¶E**, as amended by PL 1995, c. 502, Pt. C, §13, is further amended to read:

E. One member representing licensed pet shops or pet food suppliers;

**Sec. 4. 7 MRSA §3906-C, sub-§1, ¶I**, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 399, §3, is amended to read:

I. One attorney with experience in animal welfare law or prosecutorial experience within the state court system;

**Sec. 5. 7 MRSA §3907, sub-§22-C** is enacted to read:

**22-C. Pet food supplier.** "Pet food supplier" means any retail location located in the State that sells feeding supplies for pets or livestock.

**Sec. 6. 7 MRSA §3916, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 439, §8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**1-A. Required for dogs.** Except as provided in subsection 4, an owner or keeper of a dog, within 30 days after the dog attains the age of 3 months, shall have that dog vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Upon receiving an initial vaccination, a dog is considered protected for one year and an owner or keeper of that dog shall get a booster vaccination for that dog one year after the initial vaccination and subsequent booster vaccinations at intervals that do not exceed the intervals recommended by a national association of state public health veterinarians for the type of vaccine administered. A wolf hybrid is required to be vaccinated in accordance with this subsection. The procedure prescribed under Title 22, chapter 251, subchapter 5 for a wolf hybrid suspected of having rabies does not change based on proof that the wolf hybrid has received a rabies vaccination.

**Sec. 7. 7 MRSA §3916, sub-§4**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 422, §6, is further amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

An owner or keeper of a cat or dog is exempt from the requirements of subsection 1 if a medical reason exists that precludes the vaccination of the cat or dog. To qualify for this exemption, the owner or keeper must have a written statement signed by a licensed veterinarian that includes a description of the cat or dog and the medical reason that precludes the vaccination.

**Sec. 8. 7 MRSA §3923-G, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 100, §12, is amended to read:

**6. Exclusion of wolf hybrids, dangerous dogs and nuisance dogs.** This section does not apply to the licensing of a wolf hybrid, a dangerous dog or a nuisance dog. A person owning a wolf hybrid, a dangerous dog or a nuisance dog shall obtain a license from the municipal clerk or the dog recorder for the municipality, plantation or unorganized territory in which the person owning the wolf hybrid, the dangerous dog or the nuisance dog resides.

**Sec. 9. 7 MRSA §3950-A, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 343, §22, is further amended to read:

**2. Penalty.** A person who violates subsection 1 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$500 and costs may be adjudged and, for an animal control officer, revocation of that person's certification as an animal control officer may be imposed.

**Sec. 10. 17 MRSA §1011, sub-§2-A** is enacted to read:

**2-A. Animal care facility.** "Animal care facility" means any person that provides care, sustenance, housing, maintenance or other necessary care of an animal and includes, but is not limited to, veterinarians' offices, boarding kennels, equine facilities, animal grooming facilities, animal shelters and animal day care facilities.

**Sec. 11. 17 MRSA §1011, sub-§8,** as enacted by PL 1987, c. 383, §4, is amended to read:

**8. Boarding kennel.** "Boarding kennel" means any place, building, tract of land, abode or vehicle in or on which privately owned ~~dogs or other pets, or both,~~ animals are kept for their owners in return for a fee.

**Sec. 12. 17 MRSA §1038, first ¶,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 422, §11, is amended to read:

Abandoning an animal at a ~~veterinarian's office, boarding kennel, animal grooming facility or animal day care facility~~ an animal care facility is a Class D crime.

**Sec. 13. 17 MRSA §1038, sub-§1, ¶A,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 422, §11, is amended to read:

A. Places an animal in the custody of a ~~licensed veterinarian for treatment, boarding or other care, or in a boarding kennel, animal grooming facility or animal day care facility~~ an animal care facility for services offered by that facility; and

**Sec. 14. 17 MRSA §1038, sub-§2,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 422, §11, is amended to read:

**2. Notice requirement.** Before any animal may be considered abandoned under this section, a ~~veterinarian's office, boarding kennel, animal grooming facility or animal day care facility~~ an animal care facility shall send written notice, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner or keeper at the owner's or keeper's last known address. Proof of attempted delivery constitutes sufficient notice.

**Sec. 15. 17 MRSA §1038, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2005, c. 422, §11, is amended to read:

**3. Ownership of abandoned animal.** When an owner or keeper fails to claim an animal within 10 days of a notice being sent under subsection 2, the ~~veterinarian, kennel, animal care facility~~ or individual who has custody and control of the animal is considered the owner of the animal and shall arrange for its care, including, but not limited to, its adoption, sale or placement with a licensed animal shelter.

**Sec. 16. Transition provision.** An owner or keeper of a dog that is over 3 months of age on the effective date of this Act that has not been vaccinated against rabies shall have that dog vaccinated against rabies within 30 days after the effective date of this Act, unless exempt under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 7, section 3916, subsection 4.

# American Kennel Club®

We're more than Champion Dogs  
We're the Dog's Champion



Government Relations



### **Responsible Dog Care**

AKC supports laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs. AKC's Care and Conditions of Dogs policy provides proven performance-based guidelines for responsible care of all dogs. AKC opposes laws that limit the number of dogs a responsible person may own and regulations that impose unreasonable or harmful requirements. Learn more at [www.akc.org/inspections-and-compliance/](http://www.akc.org/inspections-and-compliance/)

### **Public Policy**

AKC works to ensure that laws governing dog ownership and breeding are fair, enforceable, and non-discriminatory. AKC opposes laws that target dogs based solely on breed or physical appearance. AKC supports strong enforcement of negligence and cruelty laws. AKC professional policy staff are available to assist you with legislative or policy questions. Learn more at [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org)

### **Dog Breeding**

AKC supports and actively promotes breeder education programs about responsible breeding practices and public education initiatives that help future pet owners find a responsible breeder and make well-informed decisions when buying a dog. AKC opposes the concept of breeding permits, breeding bans, and mandatory spay/neuter of purebred dogs.

### **Advancing Canine Health**

AKC created and supports the AKC Canine Health Foundation which has funded more than \$67 million for sound scientific studies to prevent, treat, and cure canine diseases. Learn more at [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org)



### **The Advantages of a Purebred Dog**

AKC celebrates and supports breeders who breed purebred puppies with desirable characteristics, abilities, and instincts. AKC advocates for responsible pet choice to allow a prospective owner to choose a pet dog with predictable size, appearance, coat type, and activity level that matches the owner's lifestyle.

### **Dog Sports, Events, and Competition**

Humans have enjoyed dogs as companions and working partners for thousands of years. AKC encourages and strongly supports the interaction and mutual enjoyment of owners and dogs in sporting, working, hunting, and performance activities and competitions.

### **The Joy of Dog Ownership**

Owning a dog is a rewarding experience that comes with long-term commitments. We encourage dog owners to do careful research when selecting a breed and to provide proper care, training, and socialization to ensure their pets remain happy members of the family and respected members of the community.

### **Education**

AKC assists teachers, parents and volunteers in teaching responsible dog care and safety around dogs and offers rigorous, standards-aligned lesson plans for grades K-12 in science, math, language arts and social studies. Learn more at [www.akc.org/public-education](http://www.akc.org/public-education)

### **Advancing and Protecting Working Dogs**

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force works to address the shortage of explosives detection dogs needed for U.S. national security and law enforcement and encourages breeding and development of high-quality working dogs that can achieve the rigorous standards necessary. AKC Reunite's Adopt a Canine Cop grant program has provided K-9s to hundreds of law enforcement agencies around the country. AKC co-founded the American Service Dog Access Coalition, to reduce the burden faced by individuals with disabilities when traveling with service dogs and increase public confidence in the legitimacy and value of service dogs. Learn more at: [www.akc.org/edc](http://www.akc.org/edc) and [www.servicedogpass.org](http://www.servicedogpass.org)



# Nobody Does More for Dogs than the American Kennel Club®

A black and white photograph of a fluffy dog, possibly a Poodle, standing on a large, textured rock. The dog is looking towards the right. In the background, there is a pond with lily pads and some reeds on the left side. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club is a not-for-profit organization and the world's largest purebred dog registry. Together with more than 5,000 licensed and member clubs and affiliated organizations, AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. AKC and our clubs host more than 22,000 family-friendly dog events each year that make a significant, positive impact on communities nationwide. To learn more, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

Contact Us: [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org) | [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) | 919-816-3720



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

**Stacey Ober, J.D.**

**Regional Manager - New England  
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Fax (919) 816-4275  
Email [stacey.ober@akc.org](mailto:stacey.ober@akc.org)



# AKC IMPACT IN MAINE

The American Kennel Club® (AKC®) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1884 to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. Together with our clubs and affiliates, AKC works to advance the health and wellbeing of all dogs, protect the rights of dog owners, and promote responsible dog ownership. We represent nearly 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including **29 clubs in the state of Maine.**

The AKC sanctions over 29,000 dog events each year, which generate significant economic benefits to local communities in addition to the millions of dollars AKC dog owners in Maine spend annually on their dogs.

2024 ME DOG  
EVENTS



142  
EVENTS



11,100  
PARTICIPANTS



An increase of 13% in  
events from 2023.

**\$2.15 million**

## ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF DOG SHOW WEEKEND

Surveys demonstrate that exhibitors at AKC conformation dog shows spend an average of **\$982 per show weekend**. This means spending by AKC dog show exhibitors for a show weekend could **inject more than \$2.15 million into the local economy**. And because AKC dog shows are an educational and family-friendly event, large spectator gates can generate additional revenues for cities and towns statewide.

## AKC REUNITE ADOPT A K-9 COP GRANTS

AKC Reunite® and AKC Clubs work together to fund the purchase of law enforcement K-9s for police departments around the United States.

MAINE POLICE AGENCIES THAT  
RECEIVED GRANTS

- Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
- Ellsworth Police Department
- Lewiston Police Department
- Saco Police Department
- Scarborough Police Department





# The Value of Responsible Dog Breeders

There are two issues on which all dog lovers agree. First, dogs deserve a life in a safe, caring, and healthy environment. Second, those who treat dogs in a negligent or cruel manner should be held accountable.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) takes a strong line on animal cruelty, including implementing a policy that suspends AKC privileges for anyone convicted of animal cruelty involving dogs. The AKC is also the only registry that has a significant Investigations and Inspections program to ensure that people who register litters with the AKC raise their dogs in a humane manner.

The AKC works to ensure that the rights of responsible owners and breeders are protected and that anyone—regardless of the number of dogs they own—who treats a dog negligently or cruelly is held responsible for such actions.

## What is a Responsible Breeder?

One of the most effective ways to ensure that dogs are placed in safe, loving environments is to support responsible dog breeders. Local communities should consider responsible breeders an asset, as they are in a unique position to mentor new dog owners and provide advice and detailed information about the dogs they own and sell.

Responsible breeders are experts in their breed and know the pedigree of the dogs they sell. They can tell potential buyers about the temperament, health, and other characteristics unique to the puppy they are considering. Many breeders devote their entire lives to developing a line or pedigree of dogs that meet specific temperament, performance, and health standards. Many also breed dogs for specific purposes, such as hunting, search and rescue, therapy, and assistance for the disabled.

When responsible breeders sell a puppy, they ensure these dogs are placed in good homes by implementing a screening process for potential buyers and following up after the purchase. Breeders often take dogs back if they are not in an ideal situation and place them in new homes, as in the case of “Bo”, the Obama family’s Portuguese Water Dog.

Most of the AKC national breed parent clubs have rescue programs for their breeds. Parent club rescues are often comprised of AKC breeder volunteers who work with local animal control officers or individual owners to ensure dogs are not abandoned in shelters, but rather placed in safe, loving environments.

Being a responsible dog breeder is truly a labor of love that comes with a significant price tag. Responsible dog breeders breed because they love their chosen breed(s) and are willing to dedicate their lives and resources to raising quality dogs.

## More than a Numbers Game

Every profession from accountants and lawyers to doctors and teachers has a few “bad apples” that tarnish the reputation of an otherwise respectable profession. Unfortunately, dog breeding is no exception.

Thankfully, these few irresponsible breeders comprise a very small minority of an otherwise unique and special profession. Those who do breed or care for dogs in an irresponsible or cruel manner must be punished under the law, but the term “irresponsible” must be carefully defined.

An unfortunate but common trend is to equate the term “irresponsible” with the number of dogs—particularly females—someone owns. This assumption often occurs among individuals with little knowledge or expertise in animal husbandry, genetics or best practices in animal care. In fact, keeping multiple dogs and maintaining proper care and conditions demonstrates a commitment to proper care and genetic diversity. The number of animals owned has never correlated with the level of care.

Many agriculture groups have partnered with the AKC throughout the United States to fight legislation that places an arbitrary cap on animal ownership. They know that historically as well as today, the great kennels—like the great horse farms or cattle ranches—have maintained and provided excellent care to large numbers of animals. Just as there are excellent owners of 100 dogs, there are negligent owners of one dog.

Simply reducing the number of animals a person or business may own will not automatically make them a better or more humane owner. There is no magic number that will suddenly make someone a better dog owner or breeder. Arbitrary numerical caps completely miss the underlying issue—owner responsibility.

Animal ownership limits can actually create more problems for dogs and the community at large. Such laws are extremely difficult for communities to enforce. Limits can force caring, responsible owners to relinquish dogs to a local shelter simply to comply with an arbitrary ownership cap. These dogs are then housed or euthanized at great expense to local taxpayers.

Additionally, limits on the number of dogs a responsible breeder may own has the potential to cause long-term damage to a breed. Ownership limits restrict breed populations and also the access that responsible breeders need to ensure the genetic diversity necessary for the future health and well-being of the breed.

## A Matter of Enforcement

There is no question that those who treat dogs in an inhumane manner should be punished. Each of the 50 states, as well as the United States Code, outlaw animal negligence and cruelty. When tragic stories of animal cruelty and irresponsible breeding come to light, they almost always result in charges under existing law being brought against the individual or business responsible.

The problem is not an absence of laws, but rather a lack of enforcement or the resources to properly enforce existing laws. Many states and local communities simply do not have the manpower or money necessary to adequately enforce existing laws.

There have been many attempts across the country to further regulate dog breeders. These include requiring warrantless inspections of private homes without probable cause, as well as impractical and arbitrary standards of care that may not be in the best interest of dogs. Not only do such provisions violate the rights of responsible, law-abiding citizens, they are also ineffective and unenforceable – and in some cases may even harm dogs. The problem is more complex than simply creating new laws – it requires the ability and will to enforce the laws against negligence and cruelty that are already on the books. A “quick fix” of adding new laws will not change or improve a lack of enforcement and may only divert resources from much-needed enforcement operations.

At the federal level, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has regularly strengthened the standards for humane care and treatment of dogs and other animals owned by those regulated by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The AKC supports the strong enforcement of the AWA, as well as an increase in the personnel and capacity of USDA to enforce the AWA.

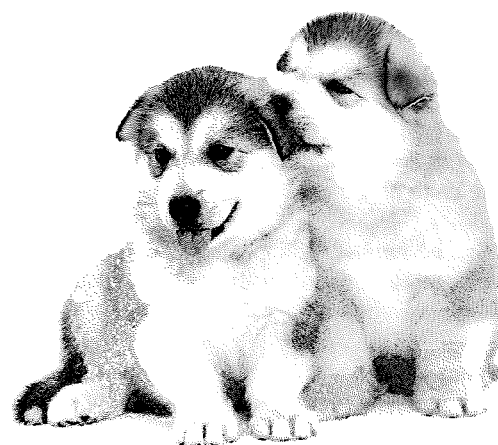
## An Effective Solution

Breeder and owner responsibility cannot be defined by establishing arbitrary ownership limits or unenforceable breeding requirements. Instead, responsibility should be defined by the quality of care given to the animals. This is why the American Kennel Club works with dog owners, breeders, and community leaders throughout the country to educate the public about responsible dog ownership.

The AKC also encourages responsible breeding practices by supporting educational symposia for breeders and competitive dog shows and other events where top breeders showcase and compete with the best of their breeding programs. The AKC Canine Health Foundation has allocated millions of dollars to research studies focusing on helping dogs live longer, healthier lives.

Where legislative fixes are needed, the AKC is pleased to assist in bringing community leaders and responsible breeders together to create positive, effective solutions. For example, Ohio lawmakers sought over several legislative sessions to close loopholes and clarify breeding and care standards for dogs. The AKC worked with responsible dog owners, breeders, and key legislators and enforcement authorities to identify the real issues. Together, this group finally succeeded in creating a strong, clear law that provided reasonable guidelines and enforcement provisions.

For over 135 years, the AKC has been dedicated to well-being of dogs. We support and value the responsible owners and breeders who breed and raise our cherished pets and beloved working dogs. Responsible breeders are an important asset and educational resource in our communities. Through educational programs and enforcement of existing laws, we can punish those who harm animals while recognizing that responsible breeders who devote their lives to their dogs are part of the solution, not the problem.





AMERICAN  
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# Right Dog

*for* **YOU**

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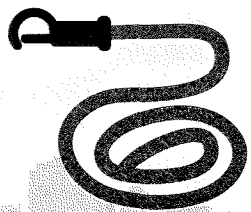
A GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE DOG OWNERS

# Meet your Match



Not sure how to “swipe right” on the perfect pal for you?  
Ask yourself these questions to ensure the dog you choose is the right fit for your lifestyle and family dynamic.  
Then flip over this page to find the breeds we mention below.

*Do you have at least an hour a day to exercise your dog, or no?*



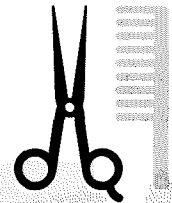
While all dogs need some exercise daily, certain breeds—those bred to hunt and run, for example—need longer and more intense activity periods. These include the German Shepherd Dog, Labrador Retriever, and Border Collie.

*Do you plan to do outdoor activities with your dog, like running and hiking?*



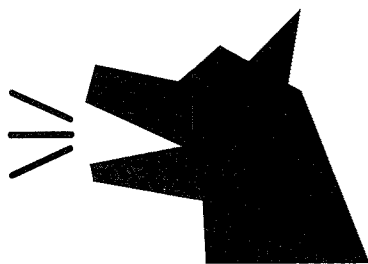
Most breeds were developed for some outdoor activity with humans (see left). But certain breeds, like the Pekingese, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, and English Toy Spaniel, are usually happier in a lap than running laps.

*Do you mind a high-maintenance coat?*



Dogs with a wire or smooth coat are less maintenance than heavy shedders, like Golden Retrievers, Leonbergers, Samoyeds, Keeshonds, and German Shepherd Dogs.

***Do you mind barking?***



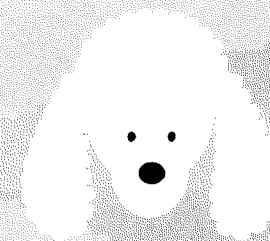
All dogs make noise. But some are more talkative, like Beagles, Shetland Sheepdogs, all coonhounds, Siberian Huskies, Pomeranians, and Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers.

***Do you have an apartment?***



Although many toy breeds are fine fits for tight city-living, there are some big breeds who are just as happy in small spaces. These include the Great Dane, Greyhound, and Mastiff.

***Do you have allergies to pet dander?***



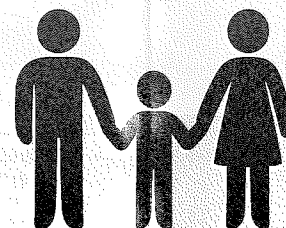
All dogs shed—some a little, some a lot. Single-coated breeds, like the Shih Tzu, Portuguese Water Dog, Poodle, Yorkshire Terrier, and Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, are less likely to cause dander-related allergic reactions.

***Do you prefer a pristine home environment?***



Physically, some dogs are messier, like champion slobberers the Dogue de Bordeaux, Neapolitan Mastiff, Saint Bernard, Basset Hound, and Bloodhound, but remember that any dog not exercised or trained properly may be destructive in your home.

***Do you have young children or are planning to start a family?***



Most breeds, especially the Bernese Mountain Dog, Boxer, English Springer Spaniel, Boykin Spaniel, and Pug, do well when kids are properly supervised and taught how to safely interact. Some toy breeds can be injured if dropped or handled roughly.

***Do you plan to participate in a dog sport, like agility or diving dogs?***



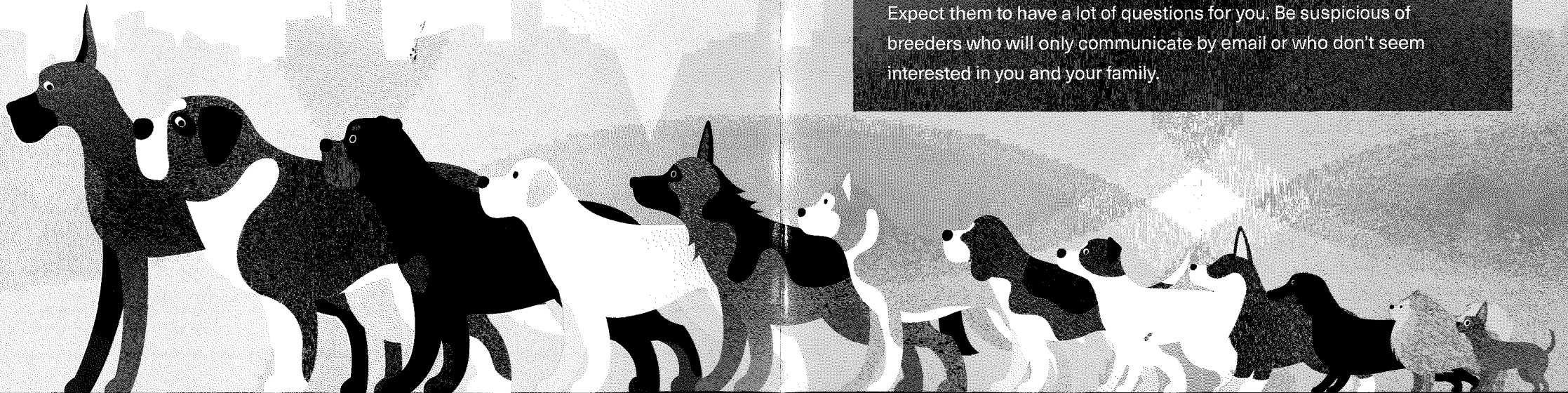
Many dog sports use the skills dogs were bred to do originally. Many Border Collies, Australian Shepherds, and Papillons are agility stars, while German Shorthaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, and Chesapeake Bay Retrievers make great diving dogs.

# How to Pick a ..... Breeder

When selecting your dog's breeder, you're also choosing a mentor and friend for the life of your dog—and maybe even beyond.

## Follow these four steps during your search:

- 1 Research the breed you're interested in. Start with AKC.org where you'll find lots of breed-specific info, including links to national breed club websites.
- 2 Consider an AKC Breeder of Merit or AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. breeder. These breeders commit to performing all required health testing on their breeding dogs.
- 3 Go to AKC Marketplace: PuppyFinder, the official site for AKC puppies and where all the puppies are from AKC-registered litters.
- 4 Get to know your breeder by phone or in person before you buy. Expect them to have a lot of questions for you. Be suspicious of breeders who will only communicate by email or who don't seem interested in you and your family.





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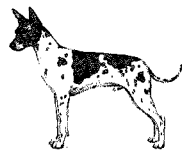
# GUIDE TO PURE

## TERRIERS

Terriers are intelligent and lively dogs that range in size from small to large. "Terrier" comes from the Latin *terra*, meaning "earth." These dogs dig and hunt beneath the ground. Originally bred to hunt and kill vermin, today's terriers are still full of vim and vigor.



Airedale Terrier  
England



American  
Hairless Terrier  
United States



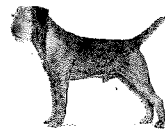
American  
Staffordshire Terrier  
United States



Australian Terrier  
Australia



Bedlington Terrier  
England



Border Terrier  
England/Scotland



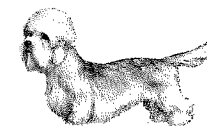
Bull Terrier  
England



Cairn Terrier  
Scotland



Cesky Terrier  
Czech Republic



Dandie Dinmont  
Terrier  
Scotland-England Border



Fox Terrier  
(Smooth)  
England



Fox Terrier  
(Wire)  
England



Glen of Imaal Terrier  
Ireland



Irish Terrier  
Ireland



Kerry Blue Terrier  
Ireland



Lakeland Terrier  
England



Manchester Terrier  
England



Miniature  
Bull Terrier  
England



Miniature Schnauzer  
Germany



Norfolk Terrier  
England



Norwich Terrier  
England



Parson Russell  
Terrier  
England



Rat Terrier  
United States



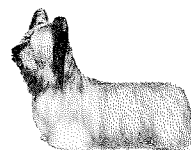
Russell Terrier  
England



Scottish Terrier  
Scotland



Sealyham Terrier  
Wales



Skye Terrier  
Isle of Skye (Scotland)



Soft Coated  
Wheaten Terrier  
Ireland



Staffordshire  
Bull Terrier  
England



Welsh Terrier  
Wales



West Highland  
White Terrier  
Scotland

# PUREBRED DOGS

## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC® and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

## SPORTING

Originally bred to help man find and retrieve game, the sporting dogs have innate instincts in the field, the water and the woods. They range from small to large.



American Water Spaniel  
United States



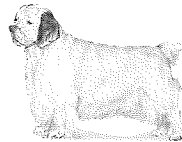
Boykin Spaniel  
United States



Brittany  
France



Chesapeake Bay Retriever  
United States



Clumber Spaniel  
France/England



Cocker Spaniel  
England



Curly-Coated Retriever  
England



English Cocker Spaniel  
England



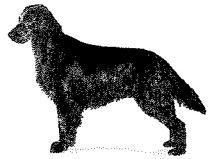
English Setter  
England



English Springer Spaniel  
England



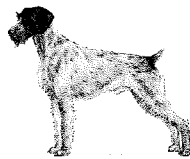
Field Spaniel  
England



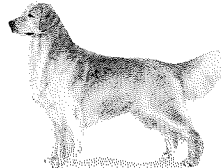
Flat-Coated Retriever  
England



German Shorthaired Pointer  
Germany



German Wirehaired Pointer  
Germany



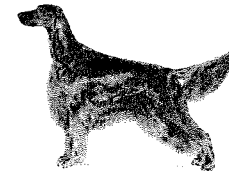
Golden Retriever  
England



Gordon Setter  
Scotland



Irish Red and White Setter  
Ireland



Irish Setter  
Ireland



Irish Water Spaniel  
Ireland



Labrador Retriever  
Newfoundland



Lagotto Romagnolo  
Italy



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever  
Canada



Pointer  
England



Spinone Italiano  
Italy



Sussex Spaniel  
England



Vizsla  
Hungary



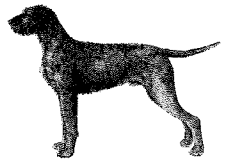
Weimaraner  
Germany



Welsh Springer Spaniel  
Wales



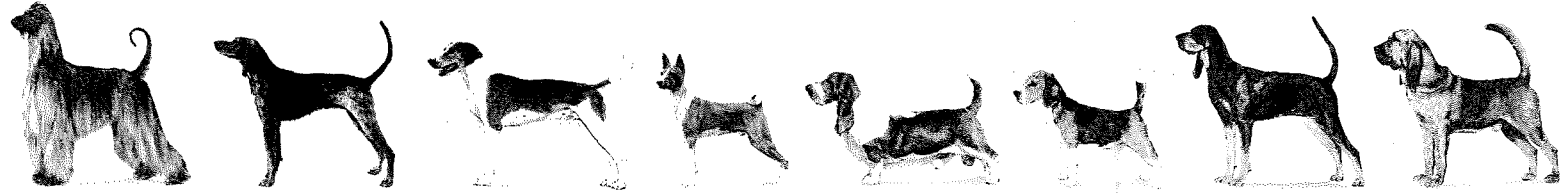
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon  
France



Wirehaired Vizsla  
Hungary

# HOUNDS

Hounds were bred to help man in the pursuit of game by tracking their prey by sight or scent. Their many shapes and sizes reflect a group of dogs bred for work in places from the Arctic to the tropics.



Afghan Hound  
Afghanistan

American English Coonhound  
United States

American Foxhound  
United States

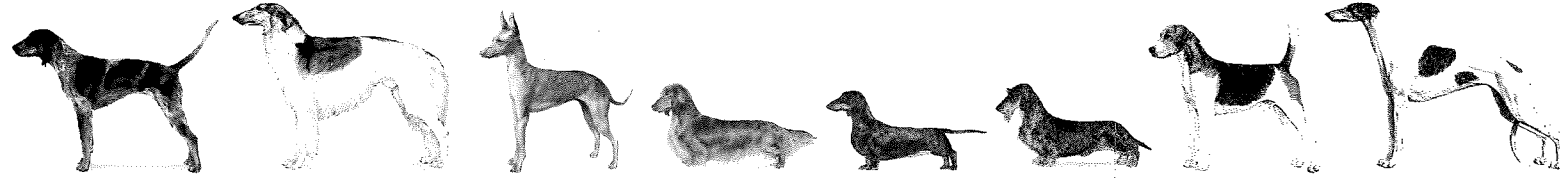
Basenji  
Central Africa

Basset Hound  
France

Beagle  
England

Black and Tan Coonhound  
United States

Bloodhound  
Europe



Bluetick Coonhound  
United States

Borzoi  
Russia

Cirneco dell'Etna  
Sicily

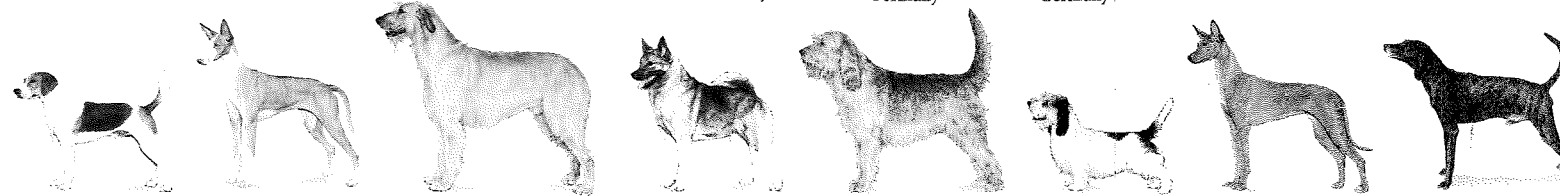
Dachshund (Longhaired)  
Germany

Dachshund (Smooth)  
Germany

Dachshund (Wirehaired)  
Germany

English Foxhound  
England

Greyhound  
Egypt



Harrier  
England

Ibizan Hound  
Middle East

Irish Wolfhound  
Ireland

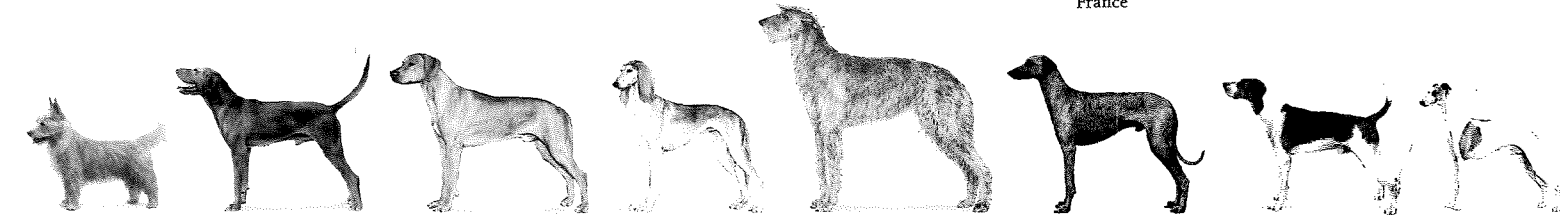
Norwegian Elkhound  
Norway

Otterhound  
England

Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen  
France

Pharaoh Hound  
Egypt

Plott  
United States



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno  
Portugal

Redbone Coonhound  
United States

Rhodesian Ridgeback  
Rhodesia/Zimbabwe

Saluki  
Middle East

Scottish Deerhound  
Scotland

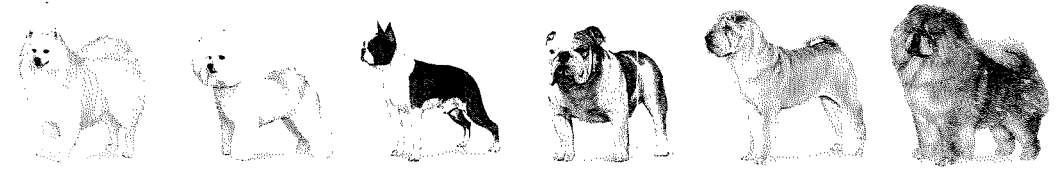
Sloughi  
North Africa

Treeing Walker Coonhound  
United States

Whippet  
England

# NON-SPORTING

The breeds in this group are a varied collection in terms of size, coat, personality and overall appearance.



American Eskimo Dog  
United States

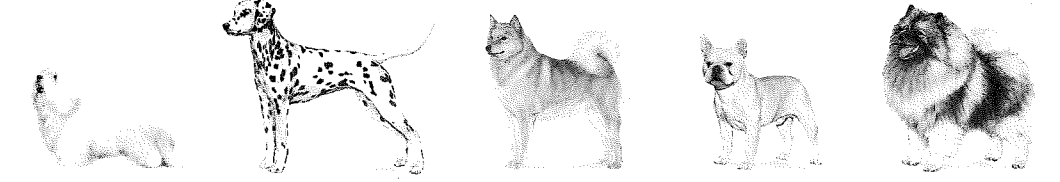
Bichon Frise  
Canary Islands

Boston Terrier  
United States

Bulldog  
Great Britain

Chinese Shar-Pei  
China

Chow Chow  
China



Coton de Tulear  
Madagascar

Dalmatian  
Yugoslavia

Finnish Spitz  
Finland

French Bulldog  
England/France

Keeshond  
Holland



Lhasa Apso  
Tibet

Löwchen  
Germany

Norwegian Lundehund  
Norway

Poodle (Miniature)  
Germany

Poodle (Standard)  
Germany



Schipperke  
Belgium

Shiba Inu  
Japan

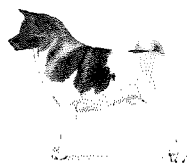
Tibetan Spaniel  
Tibet

Tibetan Terrier  
Tibet

Xoloitzcuintli  
Mexico

# WORKING

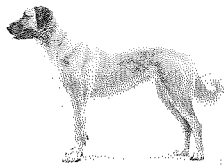
Working dogs have been invaluable to man, serving in water, snow and disaster rescue, pulling wagons and sleds, and guarding families and livestock. These intelligent animals make good companions provided their owners properly train, exercise and care for them.



Akita  
Japan



Alaskan Malamute  
Arctic



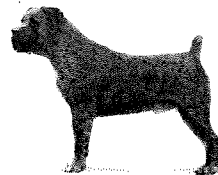
Anatolian  
Shepherd Dog  
Turkey



Bernese  
Mountain Dog  
Switzerland



Black Russian  
Terrier  
Russia



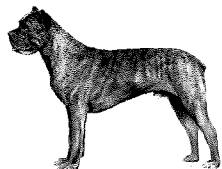
Boerboel  
South Africa



Boxer  
Germany



Bullmastiff  
England



Cane Corso  
Italy



Chinook  
United States



Doberman  
Pinscher  
Germany



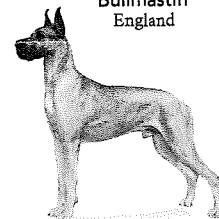
Dogue de  
Bordeaux  
France



German Pinscher  
Germany



Giant Schnauzer  
Germany



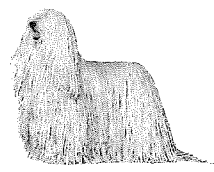
Great Dane  
Germany



Great Pyrenees  
France



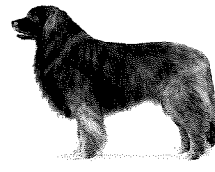
Greater Swiss  
Mountain Dog  
Switzerland



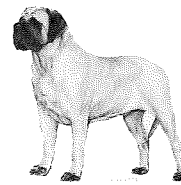
Komondor  
Hungary



Kuvasz  
Hungary



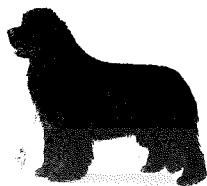
Leonberger  
Germany



Mastiff  
England



Neapolitan Mastiff  
Italy



Newfoundland  
Newfoundland



Portuguese  
Water Dog  
Portugal



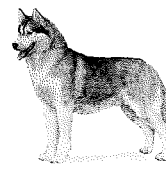
Rottweiler  
Germany



Saint Bernard  
Switzerland (Swiss Alps)



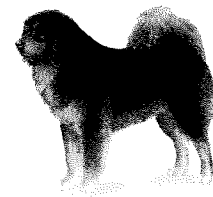
Samoyed  
Siberia



Siberian Husky  
Siberia



Standard  
Schnauzer  
Germany



Tibetan Mastiff  
Tibet

# HERDING

These dogs were bred to work side-by-side with man to drive cattle and sheep and keep flocks under control. The great agricultural lands could not have been settled without the help of the herding dog.



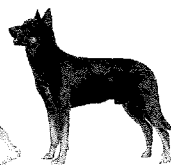
Australian Cattle Dog  
Australia



Australian Shepherd  
United States



Bearded Collie  
Scotland



Beauceron  
France



Belgian Malinois  
Belgium



Belgian Sheepdog  
Belgium



Belgian Tervuren  
Belgium



Bergamasco Sheepdog  
Italy



Berger Picard  
France



Border Collie  
Scotland/England



Bouvier des Flandres  
France/Belgium



Briard  
France



Canaan Dog  
Israel



Cardigan Welsh Corgi  
Wales



Collie (Rough)  
British Isles



Collie (Smooth)  
British Isles



Entlebucher Mountain Dog  
Switzerland



Finnish Lapphund  
Finland



German Shepherd Dog  
Germany



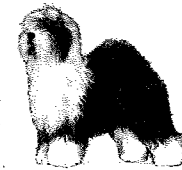
Icelandic Sheepdog  
Iceland



Miniature American Shepherd  
United States



Norwegian Buhund  
Norway



Old English Sheepdog  
England



Pembroke Welsh Corgi  
Wales



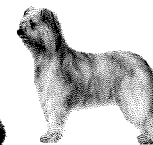
Polish Lowland Sheepdog  
Poland



Puli  
Hungary



Pumi  
Hungary



Pyrenean Shepherd (Rough Face)  
France



Pyrenean Shepherd (Smooth Face)  
France



Shetland Sheepdog  
Shetland Islands



Spanish Water Dog  
Spain



Swedish Vallhund  
Sweden

# TOYS

Toy dogs were developed for the pleasure they bring as companions. Their diminutiveness coupled with their healthy bodies make them ideally suited as family pets.



Affenpinscher  
Central Europe



Brussels Griffon  
Belgium



Cavalier King  
Charles Spaniel  
England



Chihuahua  
(Long Coat)  
Mexico



Chihuahua  
(Smooth Coat)  
Mexico



Chinese Crested  
Africa/China



English  
Toy Spaniel  
England



Havanese  
Mediterranean



Italian  
Greyhound  
Greece/Turkey



Japanese Chin  
China



Maltese  
Malta



Manchester  
Terrier (Toy)  
England



Miniature Pinscher  
Germany



Papillon  
France/Spain



Pekingese  
China



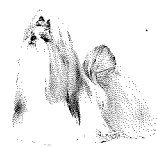
Pomeranian  
Iceland/Pomerania



Poodle (Toy)  
Germany



Pug  
China



Shih Tzu  
China/Tibet



Silky Terrier  
Australia



Toy Fox Terrier  
United States



Yorkshire Terrier  
England