



RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

Volume 1 – Issue 2 - December 2018



Tethering remains a HOT Topic!!

Tethering remains a concern across all Maryland Counties. While some tethering laws are created with good intentions, others can be damaging and restrictive. In the new year Tethering Legislation will remain a priority.

Other concerns include but not limited to:

**Breed Specific Laws
Breed and Litter Permits
Breeding restrictions
Restricting sourcing for
Pet Stores.
Mandatory Spay/Neuter
Cruelty**

What happens in one MD County can affect others!

One dog or 100 dogs they all require the care and concern.

Welcome to the Responsible Dog Owners of Maryland, Inc.

**Wishing You and Yours
A Joyous Holiday Season
And a Happy and Prosperous
New Year**

As we look forward to the holidays and a new year, we are grateful that you are a member of the Responsible Dog Owners of Maryland, Inc. Thank you! Together we will work to protect our rights to own and breed our dogs. Our purpose in part is to:

1. Promote and protect the interest of responsible dog owners.
2. Protect the general welfare of dogs and dog owners
3. Actively assist and participate in local, state and national legislation concerning dogs and dog owners.
4. Promote responsible dog ownership and the general welfare of dogs and dog owners.

To deliver on our purpose, we encourage you to help us build an army of those of those who are passionate and care most about our dogs. It is our army that will carry our mission and purpose across all Maryland Counties and their respective legislators.

Thank you for joining the RDO-MD.....we cannot do what needs to be done without your passion, help and support. Please encourage others to join us too!!

Mary Lou

Mary Lou Olszewski
President



Presented by: Bekki Pina

National Animal Interest Alliance 2018 Conference (Oct 2018, Orlando, FL)
“Uniting to Save Our Endangered Breeds”

In October 2018, Corissa Fanning and I attended the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) conference in Orlando, FL. There was so much information, we won't be able to cover it all here. But NAIA Support has informed me that the full presentation video will soon be available at <http://www.naiaonline.org/>.

This was our first time going to any kind of animal related conference. I had always heard how great it is to attend these conferences and that the information is paramount to current conditions in the world. Well that was an understatement. I am and have been immersed in the pulse of Animal Welfare, but I truly did not know what I thought I did. This conference opened my own eyes and I learned so much more.

First thing I noticed was there were people representing ALL animals and the industry. Dogs, cats, horses, farming, research, rescue, birds and government entities. All together for the same cause and no arguments, “one upping” or insecurities. All on the same page. How many dog clubs could say the same?

Saturday morning opened with NAIA President, Patti Strand. She is a kind looking woman with a big smile. But her energy and presence said she was a warrior not to be messed with. She spoke about many of the current and ongoing projects NAIA was involved in. Some to quickly list off were the launching of American Society for the Preservation of Domestic Animals, Homes for Animal Heroes (<http://animalheroes.naiaonline.org/>), and the NAIA Shelter Project (<http://shelterproject.naiaonline.org/>) to mention a few.

Then we jumped into charismatic speaker, Steven Feldman (Executive Director of the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI)) <https://habri.org/> HABRI is committed to supporting scientific research to substantiate what many of us know to be true, that humans and pets share a special, mutually-beneficial connection. People are happier and healthier in the presence of animals. Scientifically-documented benefits of the human-animal bond include decreased blood pressure, reduced anxiety, and enhanced feelings of well-being. (Taken from HABRI website). If you have a chance watch some of these great videos: <https://habri.org/the-pet-effect/#videos>

Kelly Flannigan, DVM then spoke about “Building a Better Companion Dog: The Role of the AKC Parent Breed Club” This presentation was about how parent clubs are leading the research for breed specific markers for genetic conditions. It is for the betterment of the breeds to identify and move forward with a plan on how to tackle the breed specific conditions. More markers have been identified because breeders and AKC Parent clubs in general have decided the “Not in my lines” mentality doesn't work and are more open to discuss genetic conditions.

Diane Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Chief Executive Officer, American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (AKCCHF) (piggybacked her presentation from Kelly's presentation to further expound how a few clubs were critical in identifying genetic issues in the whelping box and saw a trend. They reached out and offered their litters to be studied to find a possible common denominator among the litters that may be causing these issues. Emphasizing the willingness of breeders and breed clubs working together for the future of the breeds.

Frances O. Smith, DVM, PhD, President of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc. (www.offa.org) “Improving the Odds: Reducing the Health Risks to Companion Animals Through the Use of Genetic Tests” Spoke about the importance as of doing genetic testing on dogs in your breeding program or dogs you have bred. But they are just another tool for breeders and should not decide which dogs should be bred, but to decide who you will breed to that dog. We must rethink the way we view our breeding programs. A dog should be considered in a breeding program so long as it doesn’t have a debilitating or life threaten condition or pass on a debilitating/ life threatening condition to its offspring. Also suggested participating more in semen collection of all dogs (without DQ per standards) to store as we don’t know if we will ever be in a position where we will need to recreate our current breeds like the Portuguese Water dog did.

Carolyn Henry, DVM, ACVIM, Dean, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine (<http://cvmresearch.missouri.edu/>) “Putting the “You” in University: Why Breeder & Vet School Relationships are Essential” talked about how breeders are the key foundation to the future of medicine. (Human and Animal) because we like to track, trend and have documented cases of issues in our breeds. At her school, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, have made such advances in canine oncology because of all the Golden Retriever breeders donating dogs, or samples to their many ongoing research projects. Because of that, they have found a cure for hemangiosarcoma. (One of the leading causes of death in canines). In closing, she relayed that vet schools are now trying to be more breeder friendly knowing they often see the trends first.

Randy Russell, President, The Russell Group, (<http://russellgroupdc.com/>) Spoke about “How to be an Effective Voice in Washington”. He is a lobbyist who speaks to legislators about writing better and sensible animal legislation and to avoid the many blanket laws that are proposed. He mentioned that many animal laws are written into agricultural policies.

Angela Hughes, DVM, PhD, Veterinary Genetics Research Manager, Wisdom Health “Genetic Tools to save Our Dog and Cat Breeds: Increasing Genetic Fitness by Increasing Diversity and Eliminating Disorders.” (<https://www.wisdompanel.com/how-it-works/genetic-health-screening/>) She spoke about learning to not to “Throw the baby out with the bathwater.” As far as genetic testing. It is a good practice to get as many samples into a central database for increased genetic diversity and based on mutations found to breed against them.

Jeffrey Bryan, DVM, MS, PhD, ACVIM, Director, Tom and Betty Scott Endowed Program in Veterinary Oncology, University of Missouri “Searching for Markers of B Cell Lymphoma in Golden Retrievers: Methylation Signature that Yields Biomarker of Disease” Read the whole story here: <https://www.purinaproclub.com/breed-update/golden-retriever/fall-2018>

Steve Duncan, Founder and Operator, Avian Resources (<http://www.avianresources.com/>) “Parrot Wars: Propaganda and Politics of Parrot Keeping” His presentation talked about the struggles of breeders and rescues in the bird world are often the same that we face in the companion world. The lies and myths told by Animal Rights Activists often take bird keeping practices out of context.

Margaret Poindexter, Partner, Stanley & Poindexter, LLC; Chairman & President, Foundation for Shackleford Horses, Inc. “Lessons Learned from the Wild Horses of the Outer Banks: The Shackleford Horses” Read here: <https://www.nps.gov/california/learn/nature/upload/2008-Managing-Wildlife-for-a-Changing-Ecosystem.pdf> and <https://www.nps.gov/california/learn/nature/upload/2006-Observing-Wild-Horse-Behavior.pdf>

Charlene Couch, PhD, Technical Program Coordinator, The Livestock Conservancy “Our Horse Heritage: Conservation Challenges for Endangered Equines” <https://livestockconservancy.org/> talked about how genetic research has saved the Heritage Horse Breeds.

Stay tuned for the next newsletter for Sunday’s summary.

Bekki



Welcome to our newest RDO-MD Board Members:

Martin Del Prince – Treasurer
Corissa Fanning - Director

Thank you, Burton and Shellie Goldstein, for all your help and contributions as we organized.

Check out new website: www.responsibledogownersofmaryland.org

It was designed and donated by Joan Johnson, Blue Ridge Graphics

Responsible Dog Owners of Maryland, Inc.

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For additional information write: RDOOFMD@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RDOofMD/>

Membership Applications are available on the RDO-MD website

We stand together
to protect our
rights as:

Owners

Sport Enthusiast

Breeders

All thing Dogs!



Join Today!

Bring your dog to Annapolis Day is a work in progress.
Stay tuned for details.