



**Dog Federation of Wisconsin
742 S. Indiana Ave.
West Bend, WI 53095**

DFOW Yellow Alert - Issued April 2, 2009

This alert is a cautionary alert; an informational notice. DFOW board members are on a variety of email lists dealing with pet laws nationwide. Because of this exposure to situations that are happening throughout the United States, we feel it necessary to remind our members that they have specific rights as United States Citizens.

Your Federal constitutional rights include:

Fourth Amendment -

"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Fifth Amendment (in part) –

"nor shall any person be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

We remind our members of these constitutional rights as we hear of hobbyists, breeders and rescue organizations being raided throughout the United States. Many of these raids seem to have Humane Society of the United States in attendance at many of the scenes. We also wish to remind our members that HSUS is starting to lobby heavily in our State. The raids being reported can have the negative effect of impacting us when legislation looms. If the "animal welfare" groups can show even one bad situation to legislators, this can open the door to be inspected in our homes and they will gain a foothold for restrictive legislation. According to the State website, HSUS lobbying efforts are going towards the creation of a pet facilities act as well as trying to get a person who does not hunt, fish, or trap on boards dealing with those issues.

We are cautioning all responsible pet owners in the State to not give anyone a reason to enter your property. If someone makes a complaint against you, do not allow access to your home or any outbuildings on your property without a search warrant issued by a judge. It does not matter if you are doing everything correctly, if you are targeted by an animal rights group, they will find some reason to take your animals. Typically their coercion consists of statements such as "if you relinquish your animals to us, we will not bring charges against you". Remember that animal control officers do not have police powers in our State. Some animal control personnel are also police officers, but they still must have a search warrant in order to inspect your property. If you have a kennel license where, in order to get that license, you signed a statement indicating that your facilities are open at any time for inspection upon complaint you may not have recourse, except to comply. Make sure you contact your attorney for specific instructions as to what to do if a situation arises.

If you have kennels separate from your home make sure you are mindful of keeping your grounds clean. If you breed in your home, be extra mindful of nuisance, noise, sanitation and limit issues. Be diligent when letting prospective buyers onto your property to see any litters that you may have. Be careful how you advertise when you have puppies/dogs available. Know that hobbyists especially are being targeted to show that legislation must be restrictive and intrude on personal freedoms. Things we consider normal to have on hand; for example syringes, antibiotics, vet wrap, or treadmills will be held against you even though their purposes are benign. Classic examples are treadmills for training dogs to fight, syringes and antibiotics to treat dogs used in dog fighting. This is used in propaganda media campaigns.

DFOW does not endorse nor support breeders that place their dogs in a situation where their health and welfare could be compromised. We respect everyone's right to raise dogs for the purpose and function of their particular breed.

Some of the targeted people have been elderly. The so called "animal welfare" concerns seem to wait until a person is at their most vulnerable, typically after a time of ill-health. If you need assistance because of health issues or need to re-home dogs due to the recession, please ask and we will try to find help for you. We will not judge you or your situation; we offer our support and assistance to help you make it through a difficult time.

For help or to notify us of a false complaint against you, please send an email to [SOS @ dfow . org](mailto:SOS@dfow.org)
(please remove the spaces)