



**Dog Federation of Wisconsin
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BREEDERS ORANGE ALERT—JUNE 11, 2009

On April 2, 2009, DFOV posted a yellow alert to our website regarding the possibility of an increase in false accusations against breeders. That possibility has now become a reality. Two anonymous complaints levied against breeders were acted upon within days of one another in two different locations in SE Wisconsin. The complaints are without merit. One indicated that they were “running a dog breeding business out of the home” and another was simply “having a sick dog” on the property.

We have issued warnings in the past to breeders that advertise available litters or are listed in the various club breeder directories. We realize that the directories are an important public service, geared towards helping people find responsible breeders. However, these directories and even show catalogs are being used to find breeders in our State.

It is important to understand the mindset of the individuals who are targeting breeders in our State. These individuals have a “cult like” mentality. They are followers, believing what the animal rights groups have put forth in the media about all breeding being bad. Why else would they be targeting individuals who only breed an occasional litter?

If you have been listed in a breeder directory, have shown your dogs or have advertised a litter in any publication in the last nine years—you must be on your guard at all times. Do not allow anyone into your home without a search warrant. In the State of Wisconsin, Animal Control officers do not have police powers. They must be accompanied by law enforcement (although some law enforcement officers are also animal control officers) with a search warrant in order to enter your premises.

Some breeders have had to get special permits in order to have more than the arbitrary number of allowed animals in their community and have had to waive their constitutional rights in order to get those permits. If you are in this situation, you must contact a lawyer and find out what your rights are.

If animal control or law enforcement come to your door, walk out of your door and shut it behind you. Do not allow them to enter your home—you go out to them unless they have a search warrant. Please read the article [“What to do when animal control comes knocking”](#)
http://www.dpca.org/BreedEd/when_animal_control_comes.htm for more details.

If anything seems amiss, make notes of dates and times, take names, get witness names, what they did, take photos, and keep a log of suspicious activities.

We often hear fanciers state that “this issue will never affect me” when it comes to breeder licensing legislation. These situations are happening in OUR STATE and breeder licensing requirements have not yet been passed into law! These complaints are against small hobby breeders—the ones that supposedly will never be affected by breeder licensing legislation as after all, they are doing everything right and only breed an occasional litter.

You must protect yourself against false accusations. **This is a very serious situation.** If you truly believe in preserving the future of your chosen breed or breeds, you must do everything in your power to protect those breeds and their heritage. Insist on the preservation of your constitutional rights. Talk to your elected representatives in all levels of government—express your valid concerns.