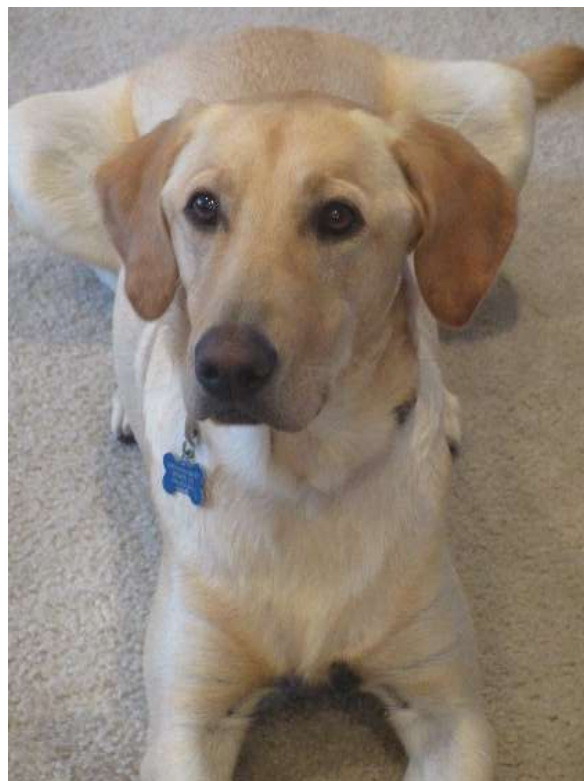




International
Partnership
For Dogs

Advancing Canine Health & Welfare



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DogWellNet



Animal Welfare & Purebred Dogs

Goals: Good health, good welfare, longevity

- Example - behavior, health, working soundness and longevity critical for the guide dog team
- Also important for owners of show dogs, pet dogs, breeding animals
- What are the "drivers" for acquiring future dogs?
- What does the future owner expect?



Michael Hingson & Roselle





Future Acquisition

American Humane Study (2012) n=1500 adults surveyed (500 never owned a pet; 500 had owned a dog but not within past 12 months; 500 had owned a cat but not within past 12 months)

- Grief over the loss of a prior pet was a deterrent for future ownership (20% of prior dog owners surveyed)
- Prior source of a dog – 22% came from a shelter
- Future source of a dog – 64% would seek a dog from shelter/rescue group
 - What defines a "rescue" group?





Industry/Consumer/Advocate Issues

- Pet industry wants more dogs/cats to enter homes; veterinary profession wants more patients
- Legislative initiatives in several states to ban the sale of dogs in pet stores
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) concerned about importation of unhealthy dogs
- Issues surrounding the regulation of Internet sales ("Rescue groups" are not all legitimate)
- U.S.A. – Still attempting to reduce the 3 to 4 million dogs/cats euthanized/year at animal care and control facilities





Industry/Consumer/Advocate Issues (cont.)

- Consumers questioning the value of pedigreed/registered animals vs. mixed breeds
- AKC registration numbers declined 10% from 2011 to 2012 (Chairman's 2014 Report)
- More than half of dogs in US are "mutts" – National Mutt Census (Mars)
- Consumers want a healthy puppy
- Is it more beneficial for a guide dog school to register purebred dogs vs. using population geneticist to advance health and temperament? Both?
- Registered Holstein cows in US (2012) – 363,669 registered/8 million total or < 5%
 - Association describes inbreeding coefficients to market benefit of Holsteins vs. Jerseys (not necessarily comparing registered cows to non-registered of the same breed)





Puppy Mills

“Commercial Breeders” –
Involves a wide group of
breeders

- USDA/APHIS - not able to regularly inspect all commercial breeders (e.g., those who sell to retail, brokers, research facilities - ≥ 5 or more breeding animals)
- AKC employs nine field agents (NY Times, Feb. 9, 2013)
- SKK has ~ 100 kennel inspectors (3,000 – 3,500 visits/year)

- Colorado Pet Animal Care Facility Act (PACFA)
 - Requires data on facilities (e.g., shelters, pet stores, breeders) who sell/transfer > 24 animals/year; inspections also part of PACFA
- > 70 locales in US and Canada now have bans of selling dogs in pet stores
- Does health and welfare equate to numbers?





Puppy Mills (cont.)

- Different state regulations – hard to standardize groups that are included/excluded
 - Colorado PACFA (e.g., facilities excluded - veterinary clinics, livestock facilities; facilities included - shelters)
- Demand
 - How can good breeders meet future demand for puppies?
 - What type of dogs? Designer? Pedigree? Mutts?
 - From rescue, shelters, breeders, internet, other?



Collaborative Efforts

- Pet industry, humane groups, commercial breeders, academicians have come together over past 3 years to develop breeding standards for commercial breeders
 - Important part of the standards is reputable third-party auditing system
 - Would allow retailers to identify puppies raised in humane manner, also taking into consideration the health/welfare of the bitches
 - Standards would meet and exceed USDA standards
 - Breeders are an important part of the dialogue
- Animal identification & animal tracking
- Future genetic testing to assess inbreeding, genetic diseases, and early nutrition
- Provide consumers with value (healthy dog)



Groups participating at some level (not a complete list)

American Pet Product Association
Petco
PetSmart
Pet Industry Distributors Association
American Animal Hospital Association
Humane Society of the U.S.
ASPCA
American Humane Association
AKC
USDA
Petland
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC)
Pet Food Industry
World Pet Association
Purdue University
Indiana Council for Animal Welfare
Breeders

Lake Research Partners 2014: Consumers (survey n = 1,013 adults) have greater trust if source of a pet is supported by humane group or veterinarian



International efforts needed

- Use DogWellNet and IPFD to share existing standards (prevent redundancy of effort)
- International collaborations to improve canine health worldwide (Dog Health Workshop)
- Use scientific data to develop rational strategies to improve health/welfare
- Be proactive prior to governmental regulations being developed
- Understand the differences between countries (rights vs. responsibility)
- Consider various aspects of health (genetic, injuries, environmental, infectious, etc.)
- Consider various aspects of welfare (shelter/food & comfort/well-being)
- Promote the values of pedigreed dogs





Desired Outcome?

- Healthy puppies and adult dogs to further foster the human-animal bond
- Longevity of life that also has excellent quality
- International partners (individuals, kennel clubs, breeders, industries, academic institutions, governments, NGO's, etc.) all working together for a common goal
- Metrics that would clearly demonstrate "success"

