

Ocampo, Gabriela

From: Mackey, Lawrence J.
Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Ocampo, Gabriela
Subject: Fwd: Comments for the upcoming Public Hearing regarding Ordinances to Animals being considered

----- Original message -----

From: F Luchsinger [REDACTED]
Date: 7/8/19 4:08 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Mackey, Lawrence J." <LMackey@lakecountyl.gov>
Cc: 'Bob Lee' [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments for the upcoming Public Hearing regarding Ordinances to Animals being considered

To the Lake County Committee for the Board of Health and Community,

I am sending you this email as I will not be able to attend your public hearing. I am a homeowner in Grayslake, Lake County. I have read over the information provided with the notice and also watched the presentation done by "Go Humane" to the Lake County board in the public video of the meeting on the website. I was very disappointed that even though you admitted there is no real issue here in LC, you are continuing to pursue further ordinance thus reducing the freedoms of Lake County residents who have pets and those who may be breeders.

I can definitely speak on this subject as I have owned several rescue dogs and have paid thousands in donations to both local and national rescues in which our employers have matching 501C3 donations. I have also donated countless hours volunteering. Even though I do not have any rescue dogs at this time, I still support the local shelters. Additionally, after rescuing a shelter dog that was not healthy, I spent thousands of dollars and 10 years of my life caring for the dog. I brought him home as a 6 month old puppy from the shelter. The shelter gave me the dog with "Kennel Cough" which they knew, and was advised his inability to walk was because of his kennel cough, which was wrong. He had such severe hip dysplasia at 6 months, he could barely walk. The money I spent on him was to strengthen his back end so he could live a normal life. I took him to TOPS Vet Rehab for water therapy for years. He should never have been rescued honestly. I loved him very much and he was such a sweet dog, but in my heart I knew he shouldn't have been rescued. He should have been put to sleep and relieved of the pain he lived all his life. I cared for him for 10 years when he finally succumbed to cancer. He was a burden I gladly took on, but when he was gone I realized how much his care took out of me personally and financially. I highly doubt I will ever adopt another dog.

Since the experience of my last rescue dog, I have only brought home purebred, purposefully bred dogs. I found the AKC through the breeders I purchased my first pup from, and even though many rescue groups will disdain it, it really is a fantastic organization for the community of dog owners. I have learned so much from my breeders, and from the AKC. I have taken my dogs into conformation shows in Lake County, worked with local Lake County trainers to teach my dogs obedience and other fun activities such as tracking. Did you know that the tracking instinct in a dog is actually inherited, it's in their DNA? So is herding which I also did with my dogs, while also learning it also an inherited instinct. My life has been enriched by the breeders who have brought these wonderful animals into the world. I have spent much money on sad things for my rescue dogs like vet care and rehab, and now my money is spent on positive fun things for myself and my family and activities and training for my dogs. I'm attaching a picture of my one year old pup tracking. Her nose is deep in the grass which again...inherited and bred for by my awesome breeder.

How do we know who is good breeder and who is not? The rescues chant a list of what they believe to be a good breeder. I highly doubt a single one of them has bred a dog, let alone one that is purposely bred to do a job. None of

the breeders I know in Lake County actually make money on a litter because of all the expenses for medical testing, DNA tests, Show Fees, Vet Fees and more. They just hope to break even with every litter. They all love their breeds and hope to preserve the instincts and form their breed is known for. Individuals breed for working ability such as protection work, tracking and herding, or just beautiful animals with great temperaments who spend their lives as amazing pets for families. I am a director with the Park Shore Kennel Club, one of the oldest Kennel Clubs in Illinois. We hold a largely attended show, both exhibitor and public, at the Lake County Fairgrounds every year, and were thinking to increase that number in the future. Our exhibitors are local to Lake county, and also in the states not only next door, but all over the United States. This provides a valuable and needed income to the Lake County Fairgrounds. It also provides commerce to the surrounding towns restaurants, pet supply stores, hotels, etc., not to mention the vendors who sell product at the show, many of the local. I could ask the PSKC to pull the numbers if you were wanting to know how much value the purebred dog is to Lake County with just this one club. It's bigger than a breeder. The purebred is important to our world. We need to preserve these dogs who do so much for us including protection and therapy and police work, etc.

The valued and responsible breeders, the ones you do not want to stop breeding wonderful animals, are disturbed at the constant push of frivolous ordinances and laws. There is constant notice of the rabid rescuers who dominate social media. They are disturbed that the laws and ordinances will continue to pressure them into being public about their breeding, allowing the rescues and animal rights groups to hunt down and bully them. A few years ago a breeder I know in Canada, had a wonderful new litter born that day and posted pictures to social media to show her pups and happiness, left the house to go to the drug store to get some items for her dogs, came back and her house was broken into and her litter was stolen. They had discovered the new born pups were taken by animal rights activists. People so concerned about animal welfare ripped new born puppies from their mother, who could only cry for days at her loss. This is one of the reasons good breeders hide. It can be really tough to overcome the fear of being targeted.

I understand that there are terrible people who do terrible things to animals to make money. There are people who do terrible things to children too and for money. As a community we cannot fight these things by continuing to try to stop puppies from being born the same we wouldn't stop children from being born. It is not a sustainable, fair, and reasonable approach to a free society. It's education and support that is so important. Not the kind of education I see out of groups like The Chicago Puppy Mill Project with the 'adopt don't shop' program. It needs to be education about preservation breeders and who they are. Including how to buy a puppy and not force families into buying a rescue dog as the only choice. Uneducated people are the ones that keep rescues and bad breeders in business. Support for the families who adopt the rescue dogs is essential. Return of rescue dogs to a shelter is extraordinarily high according to the ASPCA. Many of these families either adopted a dog not matched properly for their family, or had other pressures such as a landlord, or loss of a job, etc. forcing them to give up their dog. Training is a large reason why dogs are neglected and often end up in rescue. Animals in homes require training that families just don't seem to understand before getting their pet. I would be happier to see Lake County employ a Dog Trainer or require rescues to offer continual free training to help people instead of "policing" the responsible Preservation Breeders. Thank you for your time today.

Francine and Bob Lee
Grayslake, IL