



GINGER, THD, RATS CGCA, CGCU, TKA, FDC

President: Carolyn Hoppe

Vice President: Kathy Pearce

Treasurer: Susan Prickett

Secretary: Judy Leitzsch

Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Everson

BOARD:

**Jackie Baudo, Sally Hensen, Norene Walzer,
Zelda Andrews**

Membership Board Member: Teri Stuber

LEKC meets the 4th Wednesday of each month

@ The Lady Lake Library, W. Guava Street.

Board meets 6 p.m. General meeting 7:15 p.m.

Website: www.lekcdogclub.org

Updated membership list is available at <http://www.lekcdogclub.org/membership.html>

HOLIDAY MEETING UPDATES:



JANUARY MEETING IS THE 16TH, 2019

Archie the dog retires after 19 years of service

Orlando Sentinel Nov. 26 2018

MERRY CHISTMAS



IN THIS ISSUE

Archie the dog, retires PG.2

Braggs PG.2

**Who's watching out for the
animals? PG.2**

**Where Have All the
Volunteers Gone? PG.4**

Providence, R.I After more than 125 performances in “The Nutcracker” in Rhode Island, a 19 year old Yorkie is leaving the stage.

Festival Ballet Providence announced this week that its beloved “Nutcracker” dog is retiring. The ballet says Archie achieved stardom in his annual romp across the Providence Arts Center stage and is ready for the next chapter.

Misha Djuric, the valet’s artistic director and Archie’s owner, says Archie is “settling down to a life of luxury and long naps on pillows.”

The valet is holding auditions for the next “Nutcracker” dog. Auditions will take place in Providence on Dec.2.

The ballet says it’s looking for a pup with an elegant prance, regal coat of fur and charming smile.

BRAGS:



Daisy getting her Masters title at the Ocala show



Pompei's Tag You're It Winner's Bitch for a 5 point Major Irish Setter Club Jacksonville Nov. 16, 2018 Owners Margaret Patricia Heller & Anette Pusey



Rowdy gave me an early Christmas present; he earned his SBN title with a second place. Scent Work Club of Ocala, Southeastern Live Stock Pavilion, Ocala, Fl on December 1 & 2, 2018. Great judges, venue, and stewards.

Sharie Davis

Who's watching out for the animals?

Karin Brulliard Washing Post

USDA enforcement plummeted in 2018, agency figures show.

Two years ago, the Agriculture Department issued 192 written warnings to breeders, exhibitors and research labs that allegedly violated animal welfare laws and the agency filled official complaints against 23 according to agency data. This year, those figures plummeted: The department had issued just 39 warnings in the first three quarters of fiscal 2018, and it filed and simultaneously settled only one complaint with a \$2,000 fine for an infamous Iowa dog breeder who had been out of business for five years.

In August, USDA issued no warnings, filed no complaints and imposed no penalties through settlements with any of the 8,000 or so facilities it licenses and inspects under the federal Animal Welfare Act, according to documents obtained by an animal rights group.

The agency says the drop is the result of a suspension of hearings due to litigation, as well as a revamped enforcement process that emphasizes working more closely with alleged violators rather than a protracted investigative process that numerous internal audits have faulted for ineffectiveness.

But the result is less transparency into an increasingly opaque enforcement system. In two years, the agency's records have gone from being publicly searchable online to often available only by Freedom of Information Act requests and in redacted form. And the enforcement

changes, critics charge, favor regulated animal business while further eroding public accountability.

“It’s all part of this pro-industry, anti-regulatory agenda,” said Eric Kleiman, a researcher who has tracked the USDA’s animal care enforcement for the Animal Welfare Institute, an advocacy organization. “We’ve never seen this kind of attack on the fundamental tenets of the most basic precepts of a law that has enjoyed long-standing bipartisan and public support for over 50 years.”

USDA’s animal care division employs more than 100 inspectors who conduct surprise inspections at licensed facilities at least every one to three years. In addition to the Animal Welfare Act, it also enforces the Horse Protection Act, which bans painful “scoring” practices used to encourage the high-stepping gait of Tennessee walking horses. Inspection and enforcement records were available to the public online for years – something the USDA had touted as a valuable deterrent.

The agency stopped posting enforcement records in August 2016, replacing them with a numerical summary of activities. In February 2017, it abruptly removed all animal welfare and horse protection records from its website, citing litigation – an apparent reference to a show horse lawsuit. That blackout was assailed by animal protection groups and Congress, as well as some regulated industries and prominent conservatives.

The agency later restored some records to its public database, many with heavy redactions. FOIA requests for others can take months or longer to be fulfilled.

But as the records became less visible, enforcement actions were also slowing. USDA judges began suspending all hearings over alleged animal welfare and horse protection violations in 2017 because of the potential impact of an unrelated Supreme Court case on the agency’s administrative law judges, Bernadette Juarez deputy administrator of USDA’s animal care program, said in an interview.

(An agency spokes woman said other federal agencies did the same, but two unions that represent administrative law judges said they knew of no other.)

Some enforcement activities continued, but at a much lower rate than in previous years. According to documents obtained in a FOIA request by the PETA Foundation, for example, USDA in March fined Delta Air Lines 1 \$10,000 for allowing a cat to escape ins carrier and later die while in transport, and it sent an official warning to a dog breeder accused of 39 violations between 2014 and 2016, including giving a goat de-worming product to canines.

But the agency says no administrative says no administrative proceedings – complaints filed or hearing – took place between May 2017 and September of this year.

“The thing that’s pernicious about the drop in administrative complaints is that those are the ones that have the most deterrent value,” Kleiman said. “Those are the ones where USDA is trying to send a message not only to the respondent of the complaint, but to the general regulated community. To have this kind of drop says to the regulated community, we’re kind of on your side.”

The agency disputes that, saying it is committed to ensuring humane treatment of animals. Following a ruling in the Supreme Court case in June, Juarez said nine horse protection hearings have been scheduled before November 2019, and about a dozen other suspended cases must also be reheard by the agency’s two judges.

Amid the hiatus in hearings, the agency decided early this year to re-evaluate its enforcement process, Juarez said. Instead of sending warnings, which took an average of 365 days to be issued, “compliance specialist” now call alleged violators within 60 days of inspection to ask

whether they've made changes, she said. Additional follow-up occurs as well, she said, though she did not detail its nature.

"We can't rely on the enforcement process alone to achieve compliance," Juarez said. "The entire goal here is to ensure compliance of all licensees as quickly as possible."

But for the time being, those interactions are not reflected in any public reporting, and it is unclear what records exist that could be requested under FOIA. Juarez said the agency is still discussing how to "strike the right balance" between publicizing enforcement cultivating "working relationships" with licensees.

The agency is also piloting the use of announced inspections with chronic violators, which Juarez said allows the scheduling of multiple visits and helps ensure relevant staff, including attending veterinarians, are present. Critics have lambasted an early warning system for bad actors who could conceal problems before inspections. Juarez said she "would be pleased" if that happened, because "that demonstrates they can comply, and we would expect them to sustain compliance."

Where Have All the Volunteers Gone? David Fritsche GSD Review

We live in a world of change and it is affecting all of us. I grew up in a time when self sufficiency and energy was expected to make it in life, but somehow I feel sort of out of place in today's world.

It is as though someone turned a switch and all of a sudden everyone is expecting to get paid for everything and anything, whether or not they have done anything worthwhile.

The fact is, volunteers are the greatest asset in any community. There is nothing more powerful than a volunteer with a vision. However, I have heard some frustrated volunteers, when they are treated as though they should drop going to work, tending to the children and making dinner to solve some problem dumped on them. Ah, the volunteer: They come in all sizes and shapes, male and female, and live from sea to shining sea. Some are fortunate to have a comfortable means of support and then in these economic times, some are unemployed. Or perhaps retired, living on a limited income. But there is something above them that allows them to focus on the task at hand and the purpose for which we exist – the betterment of our sport.

Get ready! Next time you are asked to help or to take a role in your club or to run for office, do it. The pay is lousy, but the rewards are enormous.

On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog

