

THREE BILLS BECOME LAW IN THE 75TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION!

Animal Talk, Spring 2009

With Dean Rhodes no longer chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, three bills were passed during the legislative session that ended June 1, 2009. Rhodes, a Republican, was replaced by State Senator David Parks (D-Las Vegas) after the November 2008 elections made Democrats the majority part in the Senate. Both Senator Parks and Assembly Member Jerry Claborn, who chaired the Assembly Natural Resources et al Committee, were very fair-minded in their conduct of the hearings on these successful bills. Two other bills, one related to breeders (SB241) sponsored by Sen. Breeden and one related to the oversight of poppy mills (SB133), sponsored by Sen. Townsend never made it out of committee. The hearings on the bills were contentious because of presentations made by Northern Nevada breeders and the Nevada Vet Association that none of the three bills were needed; they were a constitutional affront to the rights of breeders. In SB132, it was the Nevada Vet Association which insisted on a 14 hour time period instead of the original 9 hours for allowing dogs to be chained.

Many thanks to State Senator Allison Copening, who managed to get a compromise bill out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee to keep SB132 moving. And thanks to Karen Goodman's work in Northern Nevada to get the bill introduced and moving through the Legislature. Assembly Member James Ohrenschall was extremely helpful in moving the bill through the Assembly. Assembly Member Mark Manendo guided AB15 through a rocky start and to a successful conclusion. Republican Assembly Member Heidi Gansert, who sponsored AB199, which prohibited someone from owning a fighting animal, had the least amount of problem in getting her bill passed.

Partnership again played a role as the Governor signed only AB199. The other two bills, AB15 and SB132 became law after five days in the Governor's Office had passed without the Governor approving or vetoing the bills. Most importantly many of the legislators seemed surprised at the number of constituents calling about the bills either in support or in opposition. A big thank you to all of you who took the time to write or call. It DID make a difference!!!