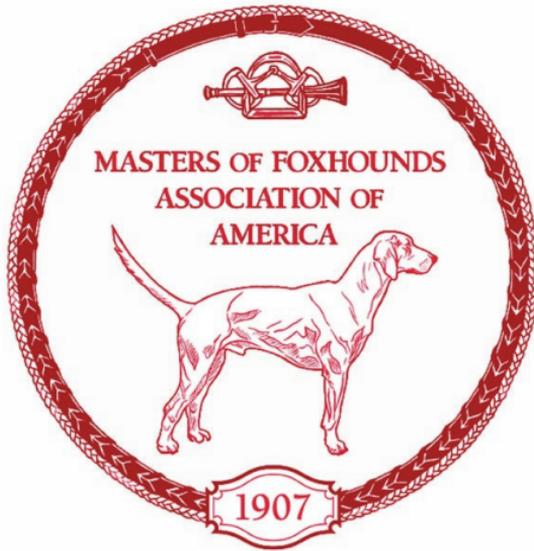


Guidelines for Developing a Plan to Manage Anti-hunting or Animal Rights Demonstrations



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Introduction

While the polarization of attitudes toward hunting activities here in the United States and Canada has not reached the extremes of the anti-hunting movement in England, the trend is troubling and warrants attention and preparation. Our society is shifting away from its agricultural roots to urban populations, and city populations generally do not understand country life, the relationship between man, animals, wild or domestic, and habitat, nor how Mother Nature dictates the delicate balance that governs their existence.

In the United States and Canada an ever-increasing number of people support extremist conservation organizations, anti-field sports organizations and anti-hunting groups. These groups, depending on their degree of extremism, would like to make it illegal to enter off road, on foot or horseback, many of our national parks, drastically change or stop horse sports as we know them today and outlaw all kinds of hunting. They label pets as slaves and they would have us eating no meat or dairy. While we respect their right to have opinions, it is unacceptable that they will not tolerate others' opinions.

The animal "rights" extremists hide behind well-conceived campaigns depicting cute, cuddly animals as victims. These zealots often make false charges of animal abuse, doctor photographs and films and infiltrate legitimate animal "welfare" organizations to further their cause. Animal "rights" and animal "welfare" are two different terms and have VERY different meanings. It is the confusion between these two terms by the general public, fueled by the media, which makes the situation so difficult for most people to understand. We all are rightfully concerned about animal welfare, but to believe that animals have the same rights as human beings is not realistic.

Animal “Rights” Versus Animal “Welfare”

The basic problem centers on the fact that animal rights activists endorse the concept that animals and humans are of equal importance. Animal welfare, however, is a broader and more nuanced idea. The MFHA explains animal welfare as follows:

“Animal welfare concerns the prevention of suffering and cruelty to animals, whereas the animal rights philosophy advocates “an end to all human use of animals” as sources of food, fiber, companionship, entertainment, sport, clothing, and scientific research. Animal welfare advocates are obligated, as animal caretakers, to provide the best possible care of animals throughout their lives.”

As urbanization continues to grow, fewer people are exposed to realities of nature and wild versus domestic animals. Considerably fewer people living country lifestyles, enhanced by the large numbers of farms and ranches that no longer exist, have created a society that is overwhelmingly a city-minded urban culture. Coupled with the massive animal rights movement, fueled by a fantasy mind set with cartoons and films based on emotion and politics rather than scientific studies and sound animal husbandry, it is no wonder the public fails to understand the issues.

Animal Rights (AR) organizations hide behind emotionally defined titles like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). We all should support the ethical treatment of animals, yet PETA is considered one of the most radical AR organizations in America. Their strategic mission is to shock and awe the public with outlandish, often ridiculous claims using movie stars, nudity, and horror to get the attention of the media and thereby of the public. PETA’s goal is to get the public thinking about issues they may not have thought of before. Twenty years ago, who would have thought that fishing could be considered cruel, owning a pet a form of slavery, or eating meat or fish barbaric?

The real wolf in sheep’s clothing, however, is the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). HSUS is the world’s largest, most influential, and richest AR organization. They are very active in litigation against animal

welfare laws, introducing AR legislation, targeting schools and children for humane education (their definition of “humane education” is not based on science or proven animal husbandry) and promoting vegan life styles with the same agendas as PETA’s, but more hidden from the public. Their former employees are laced throughout our state and federal governments. Their vegan agenda is to end all human/animal interaction, resulting in their ultimate goal of a petless/meatless society. In 2012, HSUS’s annual income was over \$125 million, with over \$240 million in reserves. HSUS is mistakenly viewed as the kinder, gentler AR organization but they have the same bottom line. They sit back in the shadows and let the more aggressive, sometimes violent or tasteless AR organizations like PETA and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) do the dirty work. HSUS admits to supporting animal rights but refers to itself as an animal welfare or animal protection organization. It is clear from their website, tax reports, litigation, and records of the people they hire, however, that their primary agenda is animal rights. The vast majority of their money is spent on solicitations for more money, employee benefits, and political maneuvering to change laws that will subsequently force us to change our lifestyles. Less than 1% of their income goes to animal welfare and around 5% for animal rights issues in the USA. The majority of their monies are used for their worldwide agenda outside the USA. The MFHA website (www.mfha.com) can provide more information on the animal rights strategies with emphasis on HSUS and PETA by clicking on the “Legislation” button on the MFHA home page.

This guide will assist you in understanding the issues and will help your hunt be prepared with a plan should you be targeted for a demonstration by an anti-hunting group.

Develop a Plan of Action

Your hunt should have a plan of action that it can follow in the event it becomes the target of an anti-hunting or animal rights demonstration. The plan should be developed with input from the Masters, hunt committee, hunt staff and with MFHA guidance. It is especially important that Field Masters and at least some members of the field participate in the

development of the plan and know exactly what they need to do in the event of a demonstration. Consider the possibility that a demonstration may also occur at a horse show, hound show, race meet, or any hunt function.

Advise your landowners: It is important you brief the owners of the land over which you hunt should there be a direct threat. If there is not a threat, there is no need to worry the landowners needlessly. The fact that you have a plan is enough. Key members of your field and car-followers should also know that you have a plan. This will increase compliance with instructions given to them if a demonstration occurs.

Know your adversaries: Identify the nature of the confrontations you may experience and plan accordingly. Are they animal rights activists, terrorists or radical conservationists? Do they have a leader? Are they sponsored by any national organization? Is this a local group or people from other areas or states sent by a national animal rights organization? Try to determine who the actual demonstrators will be. Be sure to get pictures of what they look like and gather any other information that might be helpful (e.g., descriptions of vehicles they drive or license plates). The MFHA should be consulted to see if they have any specific information to help you.

Public Relations

The importance of public relations cannot be overestimated. The relationship that your hunt develops in its community with landowners, residents of hunt countries, law enforcement, politicians, businessmen, the media, schools, and even passers-by can be important in preventing crises and assisting you in the event of a demonstration. The MFHA has a “Public Relations and Media Guidelines”. Please take the time to read it.

Key Points:

As a matter of practice, identify and reach out to other organizations in your area that have similar values (other hunting and sport organizations, horse organizations, dog groups other animal rights targets) or groups that

share your area of operation. Keep a liaison with them and share information.

If there is enough warning beforehand, hold meetings with your own members and landowners to apprise them of the threat and how you plan to handle it.

If your state has an anti-hunter harassment law, secure copies and be sure that your law enforcement contacts (state, county, local) are all familiar with that law. Consult with the local chief of police or sheriff to determine what protection you can expect from them if confronted by demonstrators, protestors or terrorists.

Don't neglect the residents in your country. Pay attention to the family who resides in your countryside but is not a landowner. These people live in the houses you pass as you hunt or road hounds. Usually, they're friends of your landowners, and if you offend them, you lose valuable support. They can be valued sources to warn you of an impending problem. Remember, they frequently tolerate your hounds and call you when a stray hound shows up at their door. They are an important part of your total community relations, and their support, when confronted by anti-hunting media or individuals, could have significant benefits.

Law Enforcement

It is imperative to establish liaisons with law enforcement and public officials at all levels (local, county, state, and federal). Coordinate with your law enforcement officials to ensure they understand that a demonstration may involve public safety, violence, trespass, traffic disturbances, or other matters that require their attendance. Make these liaisons *before* the crisis occurs. Bring to their attention local statutes and laws that can and should be enforced.

If you are confronted with a demonstration or protest at a meet, at your kennels, or elsewhere, you should know what protection you can expect from law enforcement. For example, what will law enforcement do if demonstrators trespass, disturb the peace, if you are denied access or exit

from a driveway, if the highway is blocked, if your hounds are sprayed with some scent, if riders and horses are threatened by demonstrators, if horns are blowing to distract your hounds across a highway, or any other disruptions?

In England, police protection of organized hunting became more effective when senior officials determined that certain acts were illegal and enforced the applicable laws with local law enforcement. Law enforcement personnel work for elected officials. They have the politicians' and community leaders' support. If law enforcement seems complacent or slow to react, your community leaders should get their attention. Know who they are in your community.

Private lands: Make sure you do your homework on the laws pertaining to events on private versus public lands. Being on private lands makes it easier to evict people disrupting your event. If you suspect a demonstration, try to get the landowner to give the Masters written permission to forbid entry or remove anyone who is or could be disruptive. Clearly only hunt supporters should be allowed on private property the hunt uses. Make sure law enforcement knows that you have permission before the event begins so there is no question and they can react immediately. You don't want to waste time trying to prove your rights to law enforcement if the landowner isn't present and you're dealing with a disruption.

Actions Before and During a Demonstration

Start with the kennel, as it can be the most vulnerable, especially if someone is not always present at the premises. A security plan, kennel property-specific, is essential. "No Trespassing" signs must clearly be visible at all entrances. No one should be allowed access or to visit unless approved by a Master of the hunt. Make that clear to all hunt employees. Pay attention to adjacent properties that might also give someone access, either by foot or with a long range camera.

Hunts should have a thorough understanding of federal, state and county game laws that affect hunting with hounds. It is important to stay in

compliance with hunting regulations regarding prey, hunting licenses and seasons. Hunts should also be in compliance with laws that regulate dogs (kennel licenses, rabies vaccinations, preventive medicine), horses (Coggins tests, or other medical requirements) and firearms (such as permits allowing staff to carry a pistol). If you are having trouble complying with these laws, it is best to work to have them changed before your adversaries make them even more oppressive. Illegal methods or other forms of non-compliance cannot be tolerated.

Understand that hunting with hounds can be stopped by overly-restrictive laws. These “puppy mill” or “puppy farm” bills can force unrealistic requirements that have nothing to do with good kennel management, ultimately making it too difficult and expensive to operate a kennel.

Having permission to cross all lands is essential. Make sure you have an up-to-date list of all landowners, with contact information, and ensure that your permission stays current. Have a system in place to call landowners a day or a week before a hunt. Provide landowners with a fixture card. Make sure your members understand that just because the hunt has permission to cross a certain area does not mean individuals can ride across it on their own.

During a demonstration, pay particular attention to traffic, vehicles and pedestrians. Many states have laws that govern the relationship between horses, dogs and automobiles on public thoroughfares. You should be knowledgeable of these laws and remind law enforcement, if necessary.

Demonstrators and Individual Rights: Realize that persons engaged in demonstrations also have rights and in some circumstances must acquire a permit to demonstrate. You may expect the police to protect the peace and maintain law and order. You cannot expect them to infringe on the rights of an individual to conduct a lawful demonstration.

Make sure your membership knows what they can and cannot do if harassed by a demonstrator. The best policy is for them to keep silent and move away no matter what the verbal abuse.

If you know of an imminent threat you may need to hire guards or people to assist with guarding or traffic control. Make sure they are thoroughly briefed on what they need to do. Ensure your meet location is secure.

“No Trespassing” signs, parking signs and permits need to be clearly visible. If your plan did not include security for vehicles and trailers, send someone back to the fixture site to guard them.

Don't wait; as soon as you see a demonstrator, call or send someone to call the police immediately. Make sure all your people have lists of phone numbers and people to call in the event of a demonstration. Your staff and members need to know exactly who to contact in your hunt. Someone (usually the Masters) will make the decisions before and during a demonstration. Include alternative contacts if the designated person cannot be reached.

Advise your members when it might be necessary for them to call law enforcement if there is an emergency that requires immediate action and a Master cannot be reached in time. Make sure everyone knows what you consider a real emergency by giving them examples. Make sure they know the names of people to contact in any emergency. Have contact information printed up on easy-to-read cards that they can carry in their pockets or add to their cell phone.

Everyone must behave with decorum and constraint. Do not allow any confrontation to escalate in temper, shouting or violence. Let the blood thirsty and disorderly reputations belong to them. Dismiss any hotheads or short-tempered individuals in your hunt (no matter who they are) from the scene immediately.

Have a media spokesperson appointed in your hunt who is instructed in these guidelines and who is prepared to answer questions about your hunt and the situation. Make sure they realize that THE OCCASION OF A DEMONSTRATION IS NOT THE PLACE TO DEBATE THE PROS AND CONS OF HUNTING OR ANY FOXHUNTING ISSUES.

Private property is the key to your control. Not only can demonstrators be removed, but disruptive media reporters can as well. If confronted on public property, move quickly to private property, if possible. If you are on private property, you will achieve an advantage. The demonstrators will not have permission to be there. If you have had enough advance notice of a demonstration, make sure the meet is scheduled on private property.

Know that you will be photographed, videoed and audio recorded sometimes from great distances and without knowing that it is happening. Make sure your hunt members understand that possibility. Any comments between them and the demonstrators could be taped without their knowledge. Demonstrators will try to get them to say or do something they will regret when it is shown on the news covering the story. The behavior of your spokesman and of your field must be exemplary.

Have car followers leave the scene. Make sure they do not block roads or the public way. Keep hounds, horses, and the field protected and off roads. Be specific; make sure every member of your staff knows what he or she is supposed to do, where they should go, and to stay calm. If you can, create an outer perimeter, with key individuals designated to keep demonstrators away from your horses, hounds, and the field of riders. If they can, the best way to do that is for your enforcers to get off their horses if they feel safe in doing so and have members take the horses away. The key people must be people with a high degree of common sense and tolerance to not overreact, and who know the plan and can keep demonstrators away from hounds, horses, and the field.

Video the demonstrators. Designate several reliable witnesses who can testify, if necessary, in a prosecution against the troublemakers. If possible, arrange to have a car follower or other friend of the hunt take photographs and videos of the individuals involved.

Photograph and write down names and license plate numbers as much as possible. That will help with other events in the future. Give that information to law enforcement, your district director and the MFHA office.

Finish your meet if at all possible. Do not allow them to frustrate your day or bring your event to a halt.

Prosecute

Follow up and prosecute any demonstrator engaging in illegal acts. Violations such as assault and scare tactics to frighten horses, hounds, or people should be reported. Acts of trespass can be prosecuted. This is imperative to future events. You will only encourage them to continue to harass you and break the law if you do not press charges. After the event, gather witnesses who were present. Emphasize the importance of their support and encourage them to do the right thing. Immediately write up events as they happened while memories are fresh.

Hold law enforcement accountable to do their job. Follow up to find out what will happen to violators. Make sure the police know that you will press charges. If you get the run around, make sure to talk to the chief or to a supervisor. If you're not pleased with how the incident is handled, complain to your city/county/state government leadership.

Media Relations

Find out the names of the newspapers, radio, or television stations that employ the photographers and reporters.

Again, remember that demonstrators and anti-hunting groups are looking for confrontations and may have brought the media with them, hoping to witness a battle. Turn this against them by making THEM the media event. The more rational and collected your behavior is, the better you will appear. Interviews with media should be on foot, not on a horse. When dismounted, have someone lead your horse away from the center of attention to avoid any possible mishap.

General media guidance: (see MFHA “Public Relations & Media Guidelines”)

Do not agree to an interrogation/interview while out hunting. You do not have to justify our sport. Answer basic questions so as not to be rude. Choosing the location of the interview can work to your advantage. Get reporters away from hounds and horses into a neutral environment.

The best defense is a good offense. Do not let reporters lead you to their agenda through their questions. Again, this is not the time or place to debate or to defend hunting. You do not want to be defensive. Turn questions on the right to hunt around to highlight the animal rights groups' bottom line and hidden agendas. That way you're not defending foxhunting specifically.

After a media event, call the newspaper, TV or radio station and ask that you have the opportunity to know what is being said about you and to have equal time to correct mistaken or biased presentations. The likelihood of their agreeing to this is remote, but it is worth a try.

Aftermath

It is imperative that you notify your MFHA district representative of any confrontations. Provide him or her with as many details as possible. If that person is not immediately available, notify the office of the MFHA regarding all organized anti activities in your area. In turn, the MFHA will give you any information and advice they have.

Remember that the entire anti-hunting equation may ultimately be put to a public vote. We must always be conscious of our public image and work to support all field sports regardless of their short term impact on us or our personal attitude toward them. Ultimately, the long-term survival of all field sports will be determined at the ballot box, so your involvement in effective public relations is absolutely essential. We must hang together or hang separately!

For the Future, Keep on Top of Political Moves

The “antis” have strong legislative lobbies. The biggest threat to our sport is through legislation rather than confrontation. Get involved when the MFHA sends you notice of threats. All hunt members who are active riders and social should be a subscribing member to help promote and defend mounted foxhunting.

All hunts should develop contacts at local and state legislative levels with people who can keep you apprised of potentially harmful regulations or bills.

Animal Control Inspections/Investigations Guide

Many states now have mandatory inspections of facilities that house animals. This guide will primarily address dogs, but its information will be useful for any type of animal control inspections/investigations in reference to the care, housing and conditions of any animals you raise.

This is a general guide based on knowledge of law enforcement and legal considerations. You will still need to know the specific laws for the states, counties, cities or towns you live in. It is a good idea to post that information somewhere with easy access. More and more inspections are unannounced. States like Pennsylvania have some of the strictest requirements with multiple unannounced inspections and welfare requirements that are clearly motivated by an animal rights (AR) doctrine rather than proven scientific studies of animal welfare and consideration of the differences in breeds of dogs. One shoe doesn't fit all. For example, a Husky doesn't need the same considerations as a Chihuahua. Hunting hounds have different needs and requirements than the family house dog.

While this guide primarily deals with what would be considered “hostile unannounced inspections” to commercial dog kennels, the information is useful and applies to hunt kennels if investigated or inspected by animal control agencies.

The AR movement has been able to change the definition of the term “puppy mill” or “puppy farm”, a term used in Europe, from a breeder who keeps dogs in horrible conditions (e.g., overcrowded, dirty, lack of basic needs like fresh water, exercise and sufficient housing) to basically anyone who breeds dogs for profit or personal gain no matter how good the conditions and care for the animals. Some states just use the number of male or female dogs able to breed as their definition of what is a puppy mill. Being labeled a puppy mill is akin to being called a terrorist or child abuser in AR doctrine. Pedigree dog breeders, once a proud term, have become out of fashion like the person who quit smoking, but still does keeping a lower profile. Selling dogs has become evil, while adoptions a good thing even if for most adoptions one pays for the dog. Some adoptions groups are for profit selling dogs just like a breeder. Politically correct mumbo jumbo!

For the puppy mill label movement to be successful it required the bastardization of pet stores that supposedly profit from puppy mills. So in today’s politically correct world, pet stores are now bad places. AR organizations claim pet stores buy puppies and dogs from unscrupulous breeders. The facts don’t support that allegation. As is typical in exaggerations, good breeders are thrown in with the bad breeders as the AR groups use bad breeder’s behavior as the example of the norm. Contributing to this fallacy, too many good dog breeders have fallen into the AR trap that pet stores are bad since most pure bred dogs are not sold to pet stores. The fact is there are many reputable dog breeders that sell to pet stores and many pet stores that only buy from reputable breeders. To lump them into one category as all bad, contributes to the AR agenda of ending all pet ownership.

The AR movement has also been very successful in changing the public’s perception of pedigree dogs and breeders. They are now, according to AR doctrine, the worst place to get a dog. The message being that the only dogs anyone should own should be adopted dogs from shelters or rescue groups. This foolish philosophy discounts the good reasons pedigree dogs, horses, cows, sheep, etc., were bred in the first place. For humans, hunting and working dogs were key to survival. All breeds were bred for specific

tasks. You wouldn't expect a Thoroughbred to pull a plow, a draft horse to do a Quarter Horse's work or race. So too you wouldn't expect a bird dog to be a guard dog, or a hunting hound to be a sled dog. Animals were bred for a purpose and evolved with man to provide important services that enhance their lives and ours.

Regrettably a large number of shelter dogs have problems, from mental disorders, to diseases, to having been mishandled and are not suitable for all people. For the most part you don't know what you are getting when you go to a shelter, whereas a pedigree animal's general behavior should be predictable for whatever it was bred to do.

Lastly, the best defense is an offense. Do your homework. Not all inspections or inspectors are meant to harass or are AR motivated. Get to know your animal control people. Don't wait for an inspection. Invite them to your facility. Be pro-active, be friendly, and be cooperative. We all want our animals to be cared for properly. The devil is in the details. Welfare is based on scientific knowledge and proven animal husbandry, not political bias or emotional ignorance. Know the differences between rights and welfare. We are about animal welfare, the care and humane treatment of animals not rights which is political equality with humans.

The following information came mostly from a paper "WHAT TO DO WHEN ANIMAL CONTROL COMES KNOCKING", written by George J. Eigenhauser, Jr., attorney at law licensed in the State of California. (He has given permission to cross post). We have added to his advice with information we consider helpful.

ANTI-DOG ENFORCEMENT - What Every Dog Owner Needs to Know

Dog owners and ethical breeders are increasingly being targeted. Disgruntled neighbors may retaliate against dog owners and there are many other reasons that drive complaints. Animal control enforcement action can often be motivated by AR politics and overzealous or ignorant control personnel.

The following text outlines methods of inquiry and enforcement which may be used by local officials in attempts to enforce ordinances in your community and suggested techniques of response. These techniques are entirely legal and based upon the rights of citizens as stated by the U.S. Constitution.

No breeder wants to have Animal Control come knocking on the door...but if they do, it will help if you know what your options are.

Remember, Animal Control is law enforcement. They are bound by the same Constitution as any other government agency. To protect yourself, you need to know your rights. These vary slightly one jurisdiction to another, but some general principles apply. One rule applies everywhere: never physically resist an officer.

When Animal Control Show up Unannounced to Investigate an Alleged Welfare Violation

Make sure your facility has no trespassing signs at all possible entrances with an individual identified as the only one who can give permission to enter.

Do not let them in, no matter how much they ask. Animal Control generally cannot enter your home without a warrant, or your permission. While regular police can enter in emergency situations when human life is at risk (i.e., they hear gunshots and a scream inside), there are few, if any, situations in which Animal Control can enter your home or kennel without a warrant. Simply tell them they may not come in.

If they have a warrant, get a copy of the Affidavit of Probable Cause attached to it and a copy of the inventory sheet of what and whom they took when they leave.

If you let them in, anything they find in "plain sight" can be used against you. In some circumstances Animal Control officers, unable to find a legitimate reason to make an arrest, have reported building or zoning violations. This may include caging you attached to a wall without a

building permit, that extra outlet in the puppy room, having more pets than allowed by zoning, even extension cords in violation of fire codes! No matter how clean your kennel, if they want to find a violation, they will.

Do not talk to them from an open doorway. Step outside and close (and lock if possible) the door behind you. This is necessary because:

- a. Anything they see through the open door is "plain sight" and may be the basis for an arrest, or probable cause for a search warrant.
- b. If they make an arrest or even feel threatened they are usually permitted to search for weapons in your immediate area. Do you keep a baseball bat inside the door for your protection or a cane for walks? They could be considered weapons. Even if you don't, once they step inside to look, they are in your home and may continue to search.
- c. It is hard not to be intimidated by someone in authority. Some Animal Control is even done by local police, who carry guns. It is easy for them to get "in your face", causing you to back up into the home or kennel. Once you go in, it will be interpreted as an invitation for them to follow.

If they claim to have a warrant, demand to see it. In general, a search warrant must be signed by a judge. A warrant to search your home for dogs does not include an inventory of your jewelry box. A warrant to search your kennel in the garage or in the barn does not include a search of your home.

In some locations dog owners may have obtained special "breeder permits" that stipulate that Animal Control has your permission to enter at any time. If you have signed such a permit they still cannot enter against your wishes, since you can revoke the permission at any time. However, if you refuse permission it may allow them to cancel your breeder permit, so you have to weigh the consequences.

Warning - anyone in lawful possession of the premises may be able to give permission for a search. Make sure your roommate, babysitter, dog-sitter,

housekeeper, kennel person and others know that they should not let Animal Control into your home or on your property (i.e., backyard, barn, garage, etc.). They need only state they do not have the authority and they must get permission from the owner to let you in.

How to Handle Questions:

1. Don't answer any questions beyond identifying yourself for the officer. Anything you say to the officer in your defense can be used in court (although considered hearsay). Anything you say that is harmful to you will be used in court (confessions are not considered hearsay). You cannot win, except by remaining silent.
2. Be polite but firm. Do not argue, bad-mouth, curse, threaten or try to intimidate the officer.
3. Do not lie to an officer, ever. It is NOT wrong to exercise your right to remain silent.
4. Keep your hands in plain sight. People have been shot by police when common objects, such as a wallet, were mistaken for a gun.
5. Do not touch the officer in any way. Do not physically resist an officer, no matter how unlawful his or her actions.
6. Don't try to tell your side of the story, it will not help.
7. Do not threaten the officer that you plan to file a complaint for their actions.
8. If the questioning persists, demand to speak to a lawyer first. Repeat as necessary.

Gathering the Facts:

1. Get the name and badge number of each officer involved. If he or she does not volunteer this information, ask.

2. Ask the name of the agency they represent. Different agencies have different enforcement responsibilities.
3. Ask why they are there. Request the factual basis of the complaint and the identity of the complainant.
4. If they have other people with them (Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), local humane society, press, etc.) get the names and organizations for all present.
5. Note the names (and addresses) of any witnesses to the encounter.
6. If you are physically injured by an officer, you should take photographs of the injuries immediately, but do not forego proper medical treatment first.
7. Write down all of the information, as well as the date and time of the incident immediately, while details are fresh in your mind.
8. If your rights are violated, file a complaint with the appropriate body. Follow up and make sure it has been processed.

If You Know Animal Control is Coming to Inspect:

1. Call your lawyer and get advice.
2. If they claim to want to “see” your animals, meet them at your vet’s office so that the vet can be a witness to the condition of your animals and so that they are less likely to be able to build a sham case against you. ALWAYS remember they need a warrant to come inside of your kennel or house. If they try to say things like, “If you don’t have anything to hide, you would let us come in”, just tell them, “This is America and we have the constitutional right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures.” If you are comfortable with letting them in, make sure you have witnesses there at all times. If you know when they are coming, call your lawyer and veterinarian and ask them to come to your facility to be there during the inspection.

3. Take video and pictures of your animals and facility before they come. Be aware they can be used against you if there are violations. If your animals are confiscated and later mistreated or develop health problems, those pictures will be invaluable in court. It is your legal right to videotape or take pictures of the events unfolding.
4. If authorities have a valid search warrant, video their inspection as they proceed. If they are in your face or threatening and it is possible, video them doing so.

If Your Animals are Taken by Animal Control:

1. Get your vet to wherever they have been taken immediately and get an emergency injunction to MAKE them allow the vet inspect the animals if they refuse.
2. Get your lawyer involved immediately.
3. Immediately file a motion to make sure that the Animal Control authorities cannot euthanize your animals if they have been taken from you. If your animals are immediately put down you will have no defense, and you will lose your precious pets. This has happened in hunt kennels where their animals were confiscated. They can simply say, "The animals were in such deplorable condition they had to be humanely euthanized", and you will have NO way to dispute that fact since they incinerate the animals they kill.

If You Are Arrested:

1. Remain silent. Answer no questions until you have consulted with a lawyer. Do not say anything. Anything you say can be twisted and used against you. They know you are in shock and will say anything to stop this from happening to your precious animals. That is what they are waiting for. If they are there taking your animals, they have already made up their minds and they are taking them no matter what you say or do.

2. Don't "explain" anything. You will have time for explanations after you have talked to a lawyer.
3. Even if you cannot afford an attorney, when you can, go to your local office of public defense and do a screening and let them know what happened so they can do some damage control and they will be better able to represent you at trial. Most public defenders get a client AFTER the damage has been done and do the best they can with what they have.
4. Gather all of your vet records and all documentation concerning your animals and keep them in a safe place.
5. Within a reasonable time they must allow you to make a phone call to get a lawyer or arrange bail. They are not allowed to listen to your phone call to your attorney, but they may "monitor" the rooms for "your protection". Do not say anything you do not want them to overhear; save that until after you are out on bail.
6. Once released, gather as many of your friends and family as you can and get statements from everyone about how you care for your animals, even those around you: the mailman, delivery people, neighbors (but keep in mind it might have been one of your neighbors who called). Also, do NOT have friends, co-workers or your family call the prosecutor to plea your case, they may have good intentions, but anything they say can and will be used against you in a court of law. They are very adept at twisting things so if your sister says, "Hey, she takes her dogs to the vet all the time", it will work out to, "She was so neglectful and abusive that her poor dogs spent most of their time at the vet's".

Telephone Inquiries or Threats:

You may receive telephone inquiries concerning the number of dogs you own and whether any dogs or puppies are for sale. Other questions may also be asked.

For a breeder that sells dogs (MFHA member hunts Do Not):

Your response should be to inquire, "Are you interested in a puppy?". If the answer is "yes", ask that person for his or her name, address and phone number. Suggest that you or a responsible breeder will contact that person at a more convenient time for you.

If the answer is friendly and genuinely inquisitive, invite the person to look at your puppies.

If the question asked is, "What is the price of each puppy?" simply say that puppies of this type are being sold for between "X" and "Y" dollars. Never say that you are selling them.

If the question asked is, "Are these your puppies?" you should ask, "Why do you want to know?"

For phone inquiries to MFHA member hunts, "MFHA member hunts do not sell dogs". Make that clear right from the beginning. Hunts draft hounds between each other and give older hounds and hounds that do not make the grade away free to good homes.

If your conversation indicates that the person is representing the county clerk's office or allegedly representing an official body, ask the caller for:

- Full name, title and phone number
- Agency's full name and full address
- Their supervisor's full name and phone number
- Nature of the inquiry (what it is about)
- Why the inquiry is being made
- How your name and phone number were obtained
- Ask that all future questions from that agency be submitted in writing

Preventative Measures:

1. Always keep you kennel clean and take good care of your animals.
2. Consider a PO Box or other address for business cards and hunt information. Keep descriptions of your location general (i.e. Southern California, rather than the name of the city where you live). The internet can provide anonymity for initial contacts. You can even buy a "remote prefix" to get a number from a nearby community forwarded to your phone or to a voicemail. Avoid local newspaper classifieds, they are often monitored.
3. Screen any visitor to your kennels or potential employees very carefully. Always be alert that they may be Animal Control or even AR working under cover.
4. Don't allow strangers to visit your kennel until you have screened them.
5. Be fair and honest in all of your dealings, and be on good terms with your neighbors. Most Animal Control contacts are complaint-driven. Some complaints may arise as harassment by people with unrelated grievances against you. It may be a disgruntled dog buyer or a cranky neighbor who doesn't like you parking in front of their house. It could be motivated by an AR organization or group that against hunting.
6. Anything about you that can be observed in "plain sight" from the street or sidewalk can become probable cause for a warrant. Even areas on your property open to visitors can be dangerous. Be aware of which areas of your kennel or home that is visible from the outside and plan accordingly.
7. If you are confronted by Animal Control and turn them away, assume they will be back. Use the time available to make sure everything is clean and presentable. Keep track of the number of hounds and puppies you have in kennel so as not to go over the

allowed limit for your county or state requirements. If that is a possibility find temporary shelter for those hounds until you correct the situation. As soon as they leave, call your lawyer and get advice.

Whatever you do, stay calm and keep your wits about you. Just say "no", no matter what threats or promises of leniency they make. When in doubt, say nothing and speak to a lawyer afterwards.

If the Media Shows Up:

Say nothing...don't open the door or open it and say, "No comment, it is under investigation", and close it immediately. If they call you on the phone answer, "No comments at this time" and hang up.

If you are inclined to say something, be polite, you may be being videoed or photographed by another reporter unknown to you. It helps to post "no trespassing" signs at your property line and door. Everything you say can be used against you in the "Court of Public Opinion". Animal abuse is akin to child molestation in the eyes of the public so no matter what you say, it can be twisted. The media is looking for entertainment and controversy not necessarily the truth. You can do untold damage to your case by saying anything. Interviews will only be used to further persecute you. That said, the courts can be swayed by public opinion so be very careful who you talk to about any aspect of your case. If you get offensive with reporters, it can affect the slant or prejudice on how they cover your situation and comments.

