

HB

170

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Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the legislative computer database. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Pagenkopf

Senate Rules Committee 3/5/98 12:27 pm



OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Alaska State Legislature Senate

Office of the Secretary

FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 213
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3701
FAX: 465-2832
EMAIL: senate_secretary@Legis.state.ak.us

DATE: March 20, 1998
TO: Rules Committee
(Senator Kelly)
FROM: Office of the Senate Secretary

The Senate President has added/changed the referral(s) on the following bill(s):

HOUSE BILL NO. 170 RETRIEVE

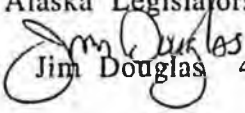
Please give the bill file(s) to the page delivering this message. The bill file(s) will be returned to your Committee after the appropriate changes have been made.

Thank you.

March 6, 1998



To: Alaska Legislators

From:  Jim Douglas, 4-H Program Chair

Re: Service Animal Legislation

In an attempt to get access to private and public buildings for service animals HB 170 was introduced. The HESS version of the bill was acceptable to the 4-H program, but the version that passed out of Judiciary and through Rules is an affront to over twenty years of outstanding work by 4-H members and volunteers to raise guide dog puppies.

The 4-H program has been in the guide dog raising business for over 40 years. We have programs in every state in the U.S. In all cases we are the agency who certifies and trains our leaders and members with dogs. The 4-H program does not need a certification program. We have been the most successful program in the U.S. in raising guide dog puppies. In Alaska our 4-H program is associated with Guide Dogs for the Desert out of Palm Springs, California. They provide materials that help us certify and train their puppies.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES CERTIFICATION

Cost

It now costs \$800 to \$1000 for volunteers to raise a guide or service dog for the eighteen months prior to its final training back at the guide dog or service dog school. The families that raise these dogs do so at a great sacrifice to their family budget. Adding a health and social services cost to what is already a very expensive community service is unnecessary. The 4-H program has a screening process as well as a recommended training process in place that works.

Identification

4-H guide dogs are identified with a blue and white coat that says Guide Dog Puppy and with a 4-H clover. 4-H members carry identification. If any other identification were used as planned in the bill, 4-H could well lose its identity and would certainly lose control over the program.

Swiftness of Service

At this time when a prospective 4-H member or leader wants to have a guide dog, 4-H agents or volunteers are required to go out to the home and while the family is still interested we certify them and have the dog on order. If H&SS were involved we would have to wait until they could certify the family and then we would still have to certify because of our liability insurance. H&SS becomes an extra cost as well as an extra step in what was already a smooth running operation.

ACTION REQUESTED

Ask that you vote for HB 170 as it came out of HESS and not the bill that came out of Judiciary.

If you approve the bill out of Judiciary, amend the bill to exempt the 4-H program from the certification process or remove the sections that refers to service animals in training being certified by H&SS.

Thank you for your support.

GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC.
P.O. Box 1692, Palm Springs, California 92263
(619) 329-6257

APPLICATION TO RAISE A GUIDE DOG PUPPY

Name (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) _____ Age: _____

Are there children in the home? _____ Their ages _____

Address _____

Environment: City ___ Suburban ___ Rural ___

Name of parent if applicant under 18 years old: _____

Telephone: Home () _____ Work () _____ Mr./Mrs./Ms.
(circle one)

1. Where did you hear about our puppy raising program? _____

2. Have you ever raised a dog before? _____ A dog for the blind? _____

When and from which school? _____

What became of that dog? _____

3. If you have a pet/pets, please give type, dog breeds, ages and sexes: _____

4. Do you have a fenced yard or enclosed area to relieve the puppy? _____

5. Do you agree to allow the puppy to live in your house and sleep in your bedroom? _____ (Initial)

GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC. provide inoculations and worming if you bring the puppy to the training facility. If pups are not considered for breeding stock, GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC will reimburse for neutering up to \$50.00 or provide for neutering by our own veterinarian. GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT, INC. will provide occasional boarding at the facility, including boarding of females in season.

6. Do you agree to pay for normal veterinary expenses? _____ (Initial)

The raiser is responsible to provide a loving atmosphere and socialization and to teach the pup appropriate house behavior. The approximate cost to the raiser is \$500.00. This cost is a donation and may be tax deductible.

7. I understand and agree this puppy shall remain the property of Guide Dogs of the Desert, Inc. and agree to return the puppy to Guide Dogs of the Desert, Inc. as requested for evaluation, neutering and when the puppy is needed for training. _____ (Initial)

8. I have read and agree to the conditions outlined in the attached copy of the "Puppy Raiser's Fact Sheet". _____ (Initial)

9. I agree to participate in Puppy and school events held throughout Southern California whenever possible. _____ (Initial)

10. What date are you available to receive a puppy? (usually there is a 6 month wait) _____

11. Breed Preference: () Golden Retriever () Female
 () Labrador Retriever () Male
 () German Shepherd

Signature of applicant(s): _____

Parent signature (if applicant is under 18 years of age) _____

Alaska Extension Agent _____

Application Procedure
for the
Alaska Guide Dog Puppy Project

- 1) Person (14 or older) or a family expresses a very strong interest, contacts District Extension Agent or Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader.
- 2) Extension Agent or Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader provides person with Puppy Raiser's Fact Sheet and Application to Raise a Guide Dog Puppy.
- 3) Person fills out the application and contacts the Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader to set up a date for a Home Interview with the whole family and family pet(s). Applicant must join 4-H either as a member (youth) or a leader (adult.)
- 4) Area Guide Dog Puppy Project Leader makes a recommendation on the bottom of the application. If the family meets with the Project Leaders approval provide them with a copy of the Puppy Raiser's Manual so they can become familiar with it while they wait for their puppy.
Note: There may be a time when you will have to decline a request. It is difficult but keep in mind the best interest of the puppy, that family and the Alaska Guide Dog Puppy Program.
- 5) Give a copy of the approved application to the local Cooperative Extension Agent for their records and send one to the State Coordinator of the Guide Dog Puppy Project: Linda Athons, 34824 K-Beach Rd., Suite A, Soldotna, AK 99669.
- 6) The State Coordinator will send a copy of the application to Guide Dogs of the Desert (GDD) for them to process.
- 7) GDD will contact the raiser directly when a puppy is available.
- 8) GDD will alert the State Coordinator of the available puppy and travel arrangements will be made by the State Coordinator for the puppy to travel to Alaska. Alaska Airlines donates the cost of transporting our puppies.
- 9) The raiser should contact the local Cooperative Extension Agent to notify him/her of the puppy's arrival.
- 10) Let the raising begin!!

Linda Athons
12/15/97



P. O. Box 1692
Palm Springs, CA 92263
(619) 329-6257

PUPPY RAISER'S FACT SHEET

As a puppy raiser, you should be aware that there are many pros and cons of raising a guide dog puppy. These puppies are right now ordinary puppies who will chew, bark and whine. They are not housebroken. They have been screened and accepted as donations or procured through our own breeding program. Raising a puppy can be fun and rewarding but it can also get difficult and tiresome.

Make sure that everyone in the household likes the idea and agrees to raising the pup. Raising the pup is truly a family affair. Although one individual may be assigned the responsibilities, the whole family will have to adjust and participate. The entire family will hear the pup cry and whine the first few nights, smell occasional accidents, and have articles belonging to them chewed on.

You will receive the pup at approximately 8 to 10 weeks of age and keep it until it is between 12 to 18 months of age. The puppy will have started its inoculations against distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and canine parvo virus. The puppy will have been dewormed, but will need a rabies inoculation at 4 months of age.

Your guide dog puppy will need LOVE AND SOCIALIZATION more than anything else. You are expected to housebreak the pup, and fully socialize it to people, animals, traffic, noises, strange surroundings and surfaces. Riding in cars comfortably is also important. We encourage basic obedience training to aid in the pup's socialization program and for general control purposes, but don't overdo it.

Fleas and ticks are the number one problem experienced by raisers. It is of paramount importance that the pup be kept flea and tick free to prevent any allergic reaction from developing.

Female puppies will come into season between 6 and 14 months of age. This is a bloody discharge period of 21 days and the only time a dog will be able to "get pregnant". Please make arrangements to secure the pup during this time (you may bring it to the school to be boarded.) Males will be altered around 8 to 10 months unless they are being considered for the breeding program. These expenses will be reimbursed up to \$50.00 or provided by our own veterinarian.

JOE HAYES

119 N. Cushman, Ste. 205
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-7423 Fax: 451-9293

While in Juneau
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
907-465-3466



Representative Tom Brice

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 170

"AN ACT RELATING TO INTERFERENCE WITH THE RIGHTS OF PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS; AND RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS DURING THEIR TRAINING PERIOD."

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) allows service animals into public facilities, too often young service animals are turned away from public facilities due to the existing law being arbitrary. HB 170 extends this law to include the young animals in training. Service animals perform functions and tasks that an individual with a disability cannot perform for themselves. These young animals need the same exposure as trained service animals if they are expected to perform those tasks.

Additionally, HB 170 will establish a state certification program through the Department of Health and Social Services. The program will establish criteria to determine how in training service animals and their trainers are identified in Alaska.

