



December 12, 2008

Council Clerk Donna Pappas
City Hall Council Chambers
6070 Central Avenue
Portage, IN 46368
219-762-7784
dpappas@portage-in.com

Dear Council Clerk Donna Pappas,

The American Rottweiler Club (ARC) is the American Kennel Club Parent Club of the Rottweiler in the United States with over 1000 members, many of whom live in Indiana. As the Parent Club, ARC promotes conformation, obedience, rally, agility, herding, carting, therapy, search and rescue, tracking, as well as maintenance of excellent health care. We support and encourage efforts to improve public perception of the Rottweiler through proper training, socialization, and participation in programs such as therapy dog work, school education, and other activities that demonstrate positive Rottweiler traits, as well as through publicizing good deeds performed by Rottweilers.

Rottweilers searched the remains of the Twin Towers in New York City and the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. Rottweilers are doing classes in responsible dog ownership in elementary schools. Rottweilers live as productive members of families. All the while responsible owners work diligently to protect and preserve the right to own this wonderful companion breed by working to promote laws that are non-breed specific.

The American Rottweiler Club Board and Membership are opposed to the proposed City of Portage breed specific legislation condemning Rottweilers, Pit Bulls, German Shepherd Dogs, Akitas, and Doberman Pinschers, as well as any breed of dog as vicious. The propensity of a violent disposition is a direct result of the training and socialization by the owner.

There are strategies that can be used in an effort to prevent dog bites which include enforcement of generic, non-breed-specific dangerous dog laws; prohibition of dog fighting; and school-based and adult education programs that teach pet selection, pet care, and responsible ownership.

Please contact me and the American Rottweiler Club Board with any questions that you might have concerning the Rottweiler. We will be happy to respond in any way to help you.

Sincerely,

Gwen Chaney
President
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