

Active Life

What Happens When Your Dog Goes Afoul Of The Law?



The dog population in the US has gone from 68 million in 2000 to 78 million in 2015. The internet and social media has elevated our house pets to a much higher level than ever before. Check out YouTube Crazy Cat Tricks or Favorite Dog Videos and it is evident that Americans love their pets.

The law considers a pet property much like a wheelbarrow or a bicycle. But, pet owners hold the family pet in much higher regard. A recent Gallup poll found that sixty-eight percent of American pet owners have given toys or presents to their pets on Christmas. Many have birthday parties for their pet and invite guests both human and animal. It is not unusual for pet owners to show up for pet parades with their favorite pet dressed in matching costumes.

In a recent Gallup survey:

- fifty-two percent of respondents said they considered their pet a member of the family.
- Twenty-percent said they give equal footing to the pet along with other family members.
- Eighteen percent claimed they refer to themselves as "mommy or daddy" when talking to or about their pet.

There is no doubt that many pet owners bestow great emotional value on their family pet far beyond the idea of property.

Is it any wonder that a new "breed" of attorney is on the rise. One of these attorneys is Jeremy Cohen, of Beverly and founder of the Boston Dog Lawyers. His firm and a fast growing net-

work of attorneys across the country are going to court and town meetings to protect the family pet from unfair prosecution.

More pet owners are seeking legal help to settle a myriad of legal actions. The toughest cases are banishment or death sentences for the family dog. In the past, many cases have been decided by a board of selectman or a dog officer without legal guidance for the pet owners. Other court cases include ownership rights in a divorce, animal cruelty, and condo associations banning a pet to name a few. These highly emotional cases are keeping attorneys like Cohen busy. Fortunately, as an animal lover he sets out with passion to find the best solution for the pet.

In 2015, Cohen decided to go full-time into animal law. His web site www.bostondoglawyers.com

www.bostondoglawyers.com has a sampling of the types of cases he has been involved in.

He is coordinating a network of attorneys to handle requests he has received for help from around the country. His goal is to find the best outcome for the pet. Dog law is a growing field and will continue to grow as pets take on a more important position in our society.

Attorney Cohen provides a free consultation and can arrange representation from other states through his growing network. He is located at 100 Cummings Center, Sta. 207P in Beverly, MA 01915 and can be reached at 978-867-7251 or jcohen@bostondoglawyers.com