

Breeders Invited to Washington DC:

We were invited by Congressman Sam Graves to be a part of his delegation to meet with several of his fellow members of congress. We arrived Monday evening for dinner with Congressman Sam Graves and Congressman Roy Blunt. We enjoyed a terrific dinner and great fellowship at the Oceanaire Restaurant in DC, and finished the evening with an evening tour of the city by the congressman's office staff. Tuesday morning we left early for a meeting at the White House. At the White House we were met by Lucas and told of the history of the building before starting our meeting with White House council to the President. We were briefed on recent happenings as well as what was scheduled for the current week in Washington DC. From there we went to lunch at the Capitol dining room with Congressman Graves and had the opportunity to see several other members of congress. After Lunch we went to the capitol hill club for meetings with the following members of Congress: Patrick McHenry from North Carolina, Bill Shuster from Pennsylvania, Paul Ryan from Wisconsin, John Boehner from Ohio, and Adam Putnam from Florida. Dinner that evening was with a foreign dignitary followed by a personal tour of the nation's capitol by Congressman Graves, what a tour and a great day. Wednesday morning we had been invited to the White House lawn to see President Bush depart for a meeting in Pennsylvania. It was quite an experience to walk through the Rose Garden and wait at the back door of the White House while Marine 1 landed on the lawn just in front of us. Then the President, surrounded by his secret service came out of his meeting and boarded the helicopter. Wow, what an experience! The rest of the day was spent making appointments for Thursday and Friday. Thursday was spent visiting with members of congress. We visited the offices of the Missouri Delegation as well as offices from GA, PA, FL, OH, WI, and NC. Friday we went to visit PIJAC, then American Farm Bureau and finally the National Farmers Union office. At each office we discussed the concerns of the licensed Professional Pet Breeders. Saturday we caught our flight back to Missouri to get back to our families. We do this for licensed professional pet breeders, not necessarily for just one organization but for all licensed professional breeders. We saw this on the wall of the Holocaust Museum in DC and it seemed to say it all:

**First they came for the socialists,
And I did not speak out-
Because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
And I did not speak out-
Because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
And I did not speak out-
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me-
And there was no one left to speak for me.**

Now is the time to team up together to fight the Animal Rights Activists, or they will pick us off, one group at a time, until there is no one left to fight. If you are not a current member of a Professional Pet Organization, I encourage you to do so for our livelihood to survive, we must all stick together.

Bonnie Schindler & Cathy Griesbauer
Licensed Professional Pet Breeders Professional Pet Association