

DOG DAYS AT THE COLORADO CAPITOL
AND
JOINT RESOLUTION:
DESIGNATING MAY 1, 2015 AS
NATIONAL PUREBRED DOG DAY IN COLORADO

DOG DAYS AT THE CAPITAL: Every year, the Colorado Federation of Dog Clubs hosts Dog Days at the Capital. On March 10th of this year, six-eight dogs and owners were allowed to sit in and be presented to the House, and later the Senate. Only the best behaved dogs are invited, and we try to get many different breeds involved. We had a record number of dogs/owners participating. I was there with my Norfolk Terrier, Mitzy. We each type up an introduction to our breed, explaining the dog's origin and purpose. Then we each get the opportunity to show off our dog to the full chamber. Obviously, we ask that only well-mannered dogs be brought in.

This is a great event that is meant to educate state legislators about who we are, as dog fanciers, dog owners and citizens of Colorado. We had a great array of service dogs, obedience, conformation titled dogs, therapy dogs. Purebred rescue dogs, and dogs involved in many hunting and performance arenas. We were chosen to represent a cross section of the dog community. The 'theme' was "How purebred dogs enrich our lives, as well as the lives of others".

Obviously, it was important that all the dogs be well-mannered and friendly. We were in the House and the Senate, and the legislators and the staff members were eager to come over and ask questions about the dog and the breed, what we do with our dog that is special. I was sitting next to a large Am Staff, who was the sweetest boy. It was good for our legislators to see these well-behaved dogs getting along so well. Of course, the star of the dogs there was Swagger, the number one Old English Sheepdog, owned and shown by Colton Johnson. Mitzy was the smallest dog there, and I was so proud at how well she handled everything, as many of the women who rushed up to see the dogs, asked to have their picture taken holding her!

Behind the scenes, Susan Stekoll and Linda Hart worked long and hard to get to this point. The final resolution was only finished hours before the reading, as there is a lot of work done behind the scenes to be sure it would be acceptable. In the last minute haste, a couple things were missed. Some of the dog clubs of Colorado were not included and, unfortunately, the Colorado Federation of Dog Clubs was not mentioned. This proclamation would not have happened, but for the CFDC and Linda Hart working with our lobbyist and personally talking to many of the legislators. The House Joint Resolution 15-1015 was read and voted on in both the House and Senate, passing handily

As we have done each year for Dog Days at the Colorado Capital, all the legislators were invited to join us at the First Baptist Church, located on the SE corner from the State Capitol. There we set up a full lunch, and put on slides showing the many events the dogs compete in. It was a great opportunity to sit down with the legislators, one on one, and answer their questions. I have attached a copy of the Resolution. We are very proud of this acknowledgement.

