



Golden Retriever Rescue
of Northern Illinois
December 15, 2006

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Woodridge, IL 60517-0460
phone: 630-588-0115
www.asgoodasgold.org

Trustee Robert Brandt
Village of Woodridge
5 Plaza Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517

Dear Trustee Brandt:

It has come to our attention that you have indicated an interest in supporting changes to Village ordinances that could restrict the breeds and/or sizes of dogs owned by Woodridge residents.

As a Woodridge-based large breed rescue organization, we urge you to support reasonable leash laws and laws that regulate dogs who have caused unjustifiable injury or who present substantial danger to the public rather than unfairly discriminate against responsible dog guardians based solely on their choice of breed. We support the ASPCA's contention that the proper means to address the problem of dangerous dogs is strict enforcement of laws that ban animal fighting, and breeding and/or training animals to fight.

It is a dog guardian's responsibility to keep control of and care for the animal in an appropriate and humane way. This includes spaying/neutering, positive reinforcement training, providing indoor living arrangements and, in general, treating the dog as a family member. An unaltered dog that has not been trained, is kept outside, and is not treated as a family member is more likely to bite or injure someone – regardless of the breed or size.

You might be interested to know that several municipalities have instituted a three-strikes law for dog guardians. *The ordinance includes various animal abuse and care offenses, including leash laws and licensing. Anyone violating the ordinance twice in a year is deemed an irresponsible pet owner and a third violation results in removal of the animal(s) and bars the individual from having pets for up to three years.*

While we understand the need to safeguard the public from dangerous dogs, we strongly encourage you to consider alternatives to breed or size bans. Please don't hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance as you review and make recommendations on this matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Sweeney
President