



American  
Kennel Club®



# IN SESSION

AKC'S CONGRESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

The American Kennel Club's Newsletter for Members of Congress and their Staff

## PERSPECTIVES

*We're more than champion dogs...  
We're the dog's champion.*

For more than 130 years, the American Kennel Club has been recognized worldwide as the expert on purebred dogs, canine care and responsible breeding practices, and all aspects of responsible dog ownership.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) is a not-for profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the advancement of purebred dogs as family and working companions and the health and wellbeing of all dogs.

The vast majority of AKC's charitable work, advocacy, health research, educational, and other programs benefit all dogs and their owners. However, we are proud to set aside May 1 as a day to celebrate the history, predictability, purpose and pride of our cherished purebred dogs.

H. Res. 46 introduced by the three veterinarians in the House (Congressmen Abraham, Schrader and Yoho); and Sen. Res. 144, introduced by Senator Thom Tillis, celebrate National Purebred Dog Day. The resolutions highlight the essential and important role that purebred dogs and their breeders have played throughout American history and spotlight the many ways purebred dogs continue to serve as military working dogs, guide and service dogs, search and rescue dogs, disease detection dogs, and more.

AKC's Capitol Hill celebration of National Purebred Dog Day on May 1 focused on four key attributes that set purebred dogs apart:

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## Congressional Canine Spotlight – AKC Celebrates National Purebred Dog Day on Capitol Hill



Breeder-Owner Kent Boyle and "Rumor" greet Patrick McNulty from the Office of Speaker Paul Ryan

There's an old expression, "if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog".

On May 1, National Purebred Dog Day, the American Kennel Club, members of Congress, staff and guests celebrated the many positive aspects of purebred dogs and the human-canine bond.

German Shepherd Dog "Rumor" (Grand Champion Lockenhaus' Rumor Has It V Kenlyn), who won Best in Show at the 2015 AKC National Championship and the 2017 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show took a grand tour of the U.S. Capitol to raise awareness of purebred dogs and National Purebred Dog Day. Breeder-owner Kent Boyles, his family, representatives from the American Kennel Club, and Senate Director of Door Keepers (and Labrador Retriever Breeder) Krista Beale accompanied her.

Following meetings with Boyle's Member of Congress, Mark Pocan [WI-2]; Rumor met numerous lawmakers and dignitaries, and visited the Senate Reception Room where she met and charmed more than 50 Senators.

In the evening, AKC hosted a reception at the Capitol Hill Visitors Center that highlighted two 2017 Congressional Resolutions—Senate Resolution 144, Introduced by Sen Thom Tillis; and House Concurrent Resolution 46 introduced by

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**Purpose:** Serving a specialized role defined by instinct, form and function

**Predictability:** Knowing a dog's characteristics in advance because of its breed

**Preservation:** Choosing to safeguard a breed to ensure its existence for future generations

**Pride:** The joy of knowing that your dog has a distinct history and legacy.

If you missed the or Capitol Hill or national celebration this year, we invite you to participate in next year's event.

In the meantime, enjoy the coverage of this year's event in this special issue!

All the best,

*Sheila Goffe*

Sheila Goffe

*Vice President, Government Relations*



**American  
Kennel Club®**

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Congressman David Rouzer and Jackson



Senator Cory Booker

Congressmen Ted Yoho, Kurt Schrader and Ralph Abraham— that set aside May 1 as National Purebred Dog Day and celebrate the diversity, predictability and heritage of purebred dogs (Read more on page 8).

The reception began with AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung honoring the working dogs of the U.S. Capitol Police K9 Unit, who protect the Capitol and nation's security. U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa, Assistant Chief Steven Sund, and "Will" a black Labrador Detection K-9 were among those on hand to accept the award (See page 3).

Throughout the evening, members of Congress and staff stopped by to meet dogs, share in the celebration and express support. Members who addressed the gathering included: Senator Thom Tillis, Congressman Ralph Abraham, Congressman Ron DeSantis, Congressman David Rouzer, Congressman Kurt Schrader, and Congressman Ted Yoho.

Attendees enjoyed refreshments and learned about purebred dogs; the dedication of responsible breeders; and AKC programs that advance purebred dogs and the health and wellbeing of all dogs. Educational stations highlighted information about AKC programs and affiliates, including:



Senator Dan Sullivan

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# U.S. Capitol Police K-9 Unit Receives AKC K-9 Award



Senator Thom Tillis, Congressman Ralph Abraham, and Congressman Kurt Schrader join AKC President and CEO Dennis Sprung and Vice President of Government Relations Sheila Goffe to present the AKC K-9 Officers Award to members of the U.S. Capitol Police K-9 Unit. Photo ©AKC.



Congressman Mike Rogers with US Capitol Police Canine "Will."  
All Photos ©AKC

The American Kennel Club presented the United States Capitol Police K-9 Unit with the AKC K-9 Officers Award on May 1. The award recognizes the special public service role of dogs that work for government agencies, and the skills and partnerships the K-9 handlers have with their dogs.

AKC President and CEO Dennis B. Sprung presented the Award to United States Capitol Police Chief Matthew R. Verderosa, Assistant Chief Steven A. Sund, Deputy Chief Fred P. Rogers and Technician Shawn Haynes, who were accompanied by Will, a black Labrador Retriever.

"I am honored to present this award," said Sprung. "It is a token of our immense respect and admiration for the outstanding and rigorous job the dedicated U.S. Capitol Police K-9 teams perform daily. There is no doubt about the enormous role that these dogs play in assuring the security of the U.S. Capitol, and our national security."

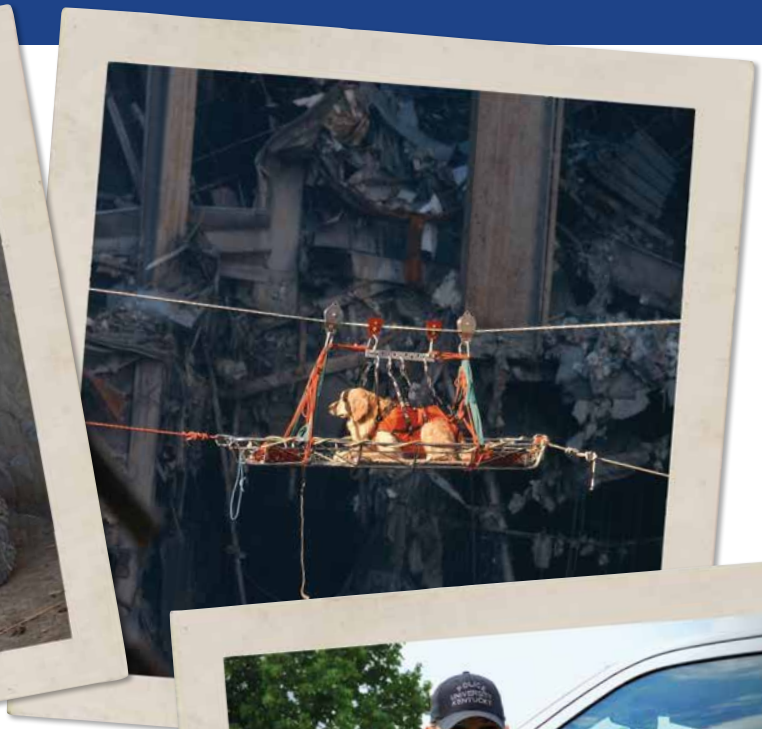
"We appreciate this recognition of the important role our K-9 teams play in keeping the U.S. Capitol safe and secure," said Chief Matthew Verderosa. "All of our technicians and canines are highly-trained and extremely dedicated to fulfilling our mission."

The ceremony took place at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center as part of AKC's celebration of working and purpose-bred dogs on National Purebred Dog Day.

## About the U.S. Capitol Police:

The United States Capitol Police (USCP) is a CALEA nationally-accredited, federal law enforcement agency. The USCP safeguards the Congress, Members of Congress, employees, visitors, and Congressional buildings and grounds from crime, disruption, and terrorism. The USCP protects and secures Congress so it can fulfill its constitutional and legislative responsibilities in a safe, secure, and open environment.

# OUR NATION'S SECURITY RELIES ON PUREBRED WORKING DOGS.



So why are we  
importing  
**nearly 90%**  
of our detection  
and security dogs  
from overseas?

AKC Stands with Members of Congress, TSA, and law enforcement to support and develop American breeders and trainers, expand America's world-class breeding and training programs, and establish a U.S.-based Center of Excellence for purebred security and detection dogs.







Rep Mark Pocan



Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Maggie Hassan



Senator Lisa Murkowski



Senator Kamala Harris



Senator John Thune



Senator Dianne Feinstein

AKC Humane Fund's grants to domestic violence shelters that enable victims to seek shelter with a pet<sup>1</sup>; AKC Canine Health Foundation's \$5.9 million in 2017 for grants for canine health research; AKC support for research and pilot programs that provide specialized service dogs for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)<sup>2</sup>; and the crucial national security value of American-bred detection and other working K9s.

"The AKC was pleased to welcome hundreds of guests to this cele-

bration of purebred dogs," said Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President of Government Relations. "Many guests told us this was the best event they had attended all year. It's wonderful to see so many people—on both sides of the aisle—come together to celebrate all the ways purebred dogs enhance our lives each day."

<sup>1</sup> AKC supports related legislation "The Pets and Women's Safety Act," H.R. 909/S. 322

<sup>2</sup> AKC supports related legislation "Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2017," H.R. 2327/S.1014



**Dogs from each of the seven breed groups welcomed attendees. Members of Congress, staff and guests posed for photographs, while handlers explained the dog and breed's history, purpose and function. In addition to Rumor, who represents the Herding Group, other dogs in attendance included:**

"Jackson" the American Foxhound (Hound Group), handled Lisa Miller and accompanied by co-owner Ellen Charles.

"Jimmy" the Standard Poodle (Non-Sporting Group) handled by Joseph Vergnetti and accompanied by owner Ellen Charles.

"Lex" the Border Collie (Herding Group) with owner by Penny Leigh.

"Nixy" the Boxer (Working Group) with owner Guy Fisher.

"Chuckie" the Pekingese (Toy Group) with owner David Fitzpatrick.

"Pippi" the West Highland White Terrier (Terrier Group), with owners Dr. Fred and Duffy Askin.

"Drago" the Spinone Italiano (Sporting Group), with owner Lauren Friedman.



Jimmy greets guests at reception.  
All photos ©AKC



Drago



Senator Joe Minchin and Senator Rob Portman with Guy Fisher, Nixy, and Jackson



Chuckie with owner David Fitzpatrick and National Purebred Dog Day founder Susi Szeremy



Senator John Kennedy and Jackson



Penny Leigh and Lex

# AKC Canine Health Foundation

AKCCHF is dedicated to advancing the health of all **dogs and their owners** by funding scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to **prevent, treat, and cure** canine disease.



In 2017, AKC CHF is currently providing over \$5.86 million in research grants across the United States:

- Auburn University – Bleeding and blood clots - \$7,600
- Clemson University – Dermatology - \$11,700
- Colorado State University – Irregular heart beat and heart failure - \$33,000
- Colorado State University – Cancer research - \$52,800
- Cornell University – Cancer research - \$88,200
- Cornell University – Ovarian disease - \$8,100
- Duke University – Understanding service dogs - \$97,800
- Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (Seattle, WA) – Immune system - \$178,200
- Iowa State University – Gastrointestinal disease - \$97,400
- Johns Hopkins University – Asthma in the inner city - \$158,300
- University of California, Davis – Genetics - \$27,600
- University of California, Davis – Heart disease - \$19,500
- University of California, Davis – Genetics and heart medicine - \$27,900
- University of California, Davis – Spay/Neuter risks - \$61,700
- University of California, Davis – Eye disease - \$17,900
- University of California, Davis – Reproductive studies - \$12,900
- University of Florida – Heart disease - \$146,700
- University of Florida – Allergies - \$12,900
- University of Florida – Gastrointestinal disease - \$12,900
- University of Florida – Cancer vaccine - \$80,900
- Louisiana State University – Genetics and deafness - \$120,000
- Michigan State University – Autoimmune disease - \$33,600
- Michigan State University – Gastrointestinal disease - \$233,700
- Michigan State University – Respiratory disease - \$74,400
- Michigan State University – Cancer research - \$43,600
- Minnesota Department of Health - \$14,900
- Nationwide Children's Hospital (Columbus, OH) – Neurological disease - \$50,000
- North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences – Wound healing - \$9,600
- North Carolina State University – Heart disease - \$50,800
- North Carolina State University – Epilepsy - \$14,900
- North Carolina State University – Nerve pain - \$37,500
- North Carolina State University – Cancer research - \$206,700
- North Carolina State University – Eye disease - \$68,000
- North Carolina State University – Urology - \$116,100
- North Carolina State University – Tick-Borne Disease - \$103,000
- Ohio State University – Kidney disease - \$31,400
- Ohio State University – Reproductive health - \$14,700
- Ohio State University – Lyme disease - \$14,100
- Purdue University – Cataracts and Glaucoma - \$74,000
- Ross University – Tick-borne disease - \$15,000
- Texas A&M AgriLife Research – Cartilage disorders - \$120,800
- Texas A&M AgriLife Research – Spinal cord injury - \$12,900
- Texas A&M AgriLife Research – Kidney disease - \$135,100
- Texas A&M AgriLife Research – Brucellosis - \$12,900
- Tufts University – Dermatology - \$12,100
- Tufts University – Gastrointestinal disease - \$251,000
- University of Georgia – Brain tumor treatment - \$119,000
- University of Illinois – Cancer treatment - \$46,300
- University of Illinois – Fetal disease - \$12,900
- University of Louisville – Spinal cord injury - \$12,700
- University of Minnesota – Epilepsy and genetics - \$104,700
- University of Minnesota – Cancer treatment - \$129,800
- University of Minnesota – Brain tumor treatment - \$130,500
- University of Minnesota – Cancer prevention - \$432,000
- University of Minnesota – Brucellosis - \$10,500
- University of Missouri, Columbia – Epilepsy - \$84,100
- University of Missouri, Columbia – Spinal cord disease - \$154,000
- University of Missouri, Columbia – Genetic disease - \$14,900
- University of Missouri, Columbia – Cancer research - \$404,800
- University of North Carolina – Causes of cancer - \$8,500
- University of Pennsylvania – Study of 9/11 dogs - \$11,000
- University of Pennsylvania – Tuberculosis - \$106,800
- University of Pennsylvania – Cancer vaccine - \$96,600
- University of Wisconsin, Madison – Cancer research - \$112,800
- Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine - \$254,500
- Washington State University – Drug interactions and genetics - \$150,000
- Washington State University – Knee repair surgeries - \$12,900
- Western University of Health Sciences – Tick-borne disease - \$74,800
- North Carolina State University, University of Minnesota, and Broad Institute – Cancer research- \$360,900



# SERVICE DOGS...



**Change Lives**  
**Save Lives**



The American Kennel Club honors the sacrifice of America's wounded veterans. We recognize the enormous contribution that service dogs can make to the lives of disabled veterans, including those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). We support efforts to provide appropriate service dogs to disabled veterans and advance the study of PTSD/TBI - specific service dogs for military veterans.





# Congress and Senate Introduce Resolutions Honoring Purebred Dogs



Congressmen Ted Yoho, Kurt Schrader, and Ralph Abraham speak to attendees at the National Purebred Dog Day Reception. Photos ©AKC.

U.S. Congressmen and veterinarians Ted Yoho [R-FL-3], Ralph Abraham, [R-LA-5], Kurt Schrader [D-OR-5] and have joined forces across the aisle to introduce a Congressional Resolution in support of National Purebred Dog Day. U.S. Senator Thom Tillis [R-NC] also introduced a Senate Resolution in support of the day and in celebration of purebred dogs.

The resolutions highlight the essential and important role that purebred dogs and breeders of purebred dogs have played throughout United States history and spotlights the many ways purebred dogs continue to serve U.S. citizens as military working dogs, guide and service dogs, search and rescue dogs, disease detection dogs and more.

“There’s a reason dogs are known as man’s best friend. The special functions and abilities of each unique breed enable them to serve everyone from America’s farmers to our military and law enforcement,” said Kurt Schrader. “As a veterinarian and farmer for over 30 years, I believe it is important that we set aside a day to honor these animals that brighten, improve, and enhance our lives each day.”

“As a farmer, veterinarian, and military veteran, I can personally attest to the many ways purebred dogs have made a difference in the lives of Americans,” said Abraham. “Each

purebred breed was developed for a specific purpose. From search and rescue and working dogs to service animals and loyal companions, purebred dogs continue to play a critical role and I am proud to sponsor this legislation that recognizes their contributions to our country.”



Nixy greets Senator Thom Tillis

National Purebred Dog Day (NPDD) is celebrated on May 1 and was originally created by Colorado dog enthusiast Susi Szeremy in 2013 as a way to increase awareness and celebrate all of the ways purebred dogs better our lives. Thousands of breeders and dog owners from across the United States celebrate purpose-bred dogs and the predictability of breeds during NPDD on all social media platforms.

“The American Kennel Club appreciates this recognition of National Purebred Dog Day,” said Dennis B. Sprung, AKC President and CEO. “The predictability of purebred dogs not only makes them great family pets, but it also makes them wonderful service dogs, military dogs, search and rescue dogs and working dogs

in our society. It is important to set aside a day to honor the pride, purpose, and preservation of these dogs and to celebrate all they do to enhance our lives.”

## S. RES. 144

Designating May 1, 2017, as “National Purebred Dog Day”.

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### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TILLIS submitted the following concurrent resolution

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## RESOLUTION

Designating May 1, 2017, as “National Purebred Dog Day”.

Whereas the human-canine bond predates history and individuals have enjoyed the companionship and assistance of dogs since the dawn of civilization;

Whereas dog ownership has existed in all cultures, races, climates, and economic situations;

Whereas more than 350 dog breeds exist worldwide, and more than 180 breeds are recognized by the American Kennel Club;

Whereas purebred dogs and breeders of purebred dogs have played a crucial role in United States history, dating to colonial times, during which George Washington had a foxhound breeding program, which established the American Foxhound breed;

Whereas responsible breeders of purebred dogs dedicate their lives to improving the health and well-being of dogs and preserving unique breeds of dogs;

Whereas purebred dogs were created to work alongside humane, and provide inestimable service as –

- (1) search and rescue dogs;
- (2) service dogs;
- (3) disease detection dogs;
- (4) police dogs;
- (5) conservation dogs;
- (6) livestock guardians;
- (7) therapy dogs; and
- (8) companions and guardians of families, homes and property;

Whereas purebred dogs provide unparalleled service to the disabled as guide and service dogs, and are the choice of leading service dog breeding programs because of the heritable intelligence, and desirable and predictable qualities, of purebred dogs;

Whereas purebred military working dogs serve alongside the men and women of the United States Armed Forces in combat and in peacetime;

Whereas breed instinct enables purebred dogs to readily serve as –

- (1) avalanche dogs;
- (2) trackers and trailers;
- (3) herders;
- (4) controllers of vermin;
- (5) water rescuers;
- (6) carting and sled dogs;
- (7) retrievers;
- (8) protectors;
- (9) hunters; and
- (10) bird dogs;

Whereas the first “National Purebred Dog Day” was established on May 1, 2015;

Whereas millions of individuals, through social media and other avenues, recognize May 1 each year as “National Purebred Dog Day” and desire, on May 1, to expressly recognize the contributions of the purebred dog; and

Whereas individuals value all dogs, regardless of the ancestry of the dogs, and especially cherish a purpose-bred dog and the predictability of each respective breed of purpose-bred dog; Now, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate –

(1) designates May 1, 2017, as “National Purebred Dog Day” in celebration of purebred dogs and the many service and companion benefits purebred dogs have and continue to provide to the United States; and

(2) honors the dedicated and responsible breeders who work to preserve and advance their breeds and responsible dog ownership throughout the United States.



115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. CON. RES. 46

Expressing support for the designation of a “National Purebred Dog Day”.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 4, 2017

Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. ABRAHAM) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of a “National Purebred Dog Day”.

Whereas there is currently no day set aside to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of the purebred dog, and we wish to designate a day to expressly recognize those contributions;

Whereas purebred dogs are living legacies of the cultures that created them, and historically these dogs worked alongside their people and provided them companionship;

Whereas today, the service of these breeds continues as they work alongside humans and provide inestimable companionship while serving as guide dogs, service dogs, conservation dogs, livestock guardians, search and rescue dogs, earth dogs, police dogs, canine soldiers serving by the sides of our military men and women, and ultimately guardians of family, home, and hearth;

Whereas purebred dogs have been of enormous help to medical science, serving as models for many heritable human diseases, playing a role in humanity's understanding of the human and canine genomes, and benefiting pharmaceutical research and development;

Whereas purebred dogs are working dogs, serving as avalanche dogs, trackers and trailers, herders, controllers of vermin, water rescuers, carting and sled dogs, retrievers, protectors, hunters, and bird dogs, and always they are the heartbeat of a companion near and dear to humans;

Whereas all dogs should be valued, whatever their ancestry, but the purpose-bred dog and the predictability of its breed should be cherished and preserved; and

Whereas each breed is indelibly etched in the history of the culture that created it just as surely as that culture's music, art, and language: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress supports the designation of a “National Purebred Dog Day”.*

# The American Kennel Club and its affiliates do so many things for dogs everywhere.

## KENNEL INSPECTION

We inspect thousands of kennels every year to ensure the safety and welfare of dogs.



## HEALTH RESEARCH

Since 1995 the AKC Canine Health Foundation has raised over \$44 million for canine health research projects and education to benefit all dogs and their owners.

## PET DISASTER RELIEF

We have donated over \$2 million to help local Emergency Management prepare for and provide disaster relief for people and their pets.



## LOST DOG RECOVERY

We offer recovery services 24/7, 365 days-a-year, and have reunited over 400,000 lost dogs with their families.

The American Kennel Club, working with its affiliates, is the only not-for-profit registry devoted to the health and well-being of dogs.

We have allocated over \$30 million to fund programs for the betterment of dogs everywhere.

AKC IS PROUD TO HAVE THE  
SUPPORT OF PURINA PRO PLAN



WE'RE MORE THAN CHAMPION DOGS.  
WE'RE THE DOG'S CHAMPION.