



Protect Your Rights! Become an AKC Legislative Liaison

Who are Legislative Liaisons?

Legislative Liaisons are dog club members who follow local and state-level dog policy issues and provide an important communications link between their clubs and the AKC Government Relations Department.

Does our club need a Legislative Liaison?



Yes! Every AKC club benefits from having a legislative contact. Legislative Liaisons help the AKC, dog clubs, and individual purebred fanciers work together to efficiently and effectively address legislative issues.

What do Legislative Liaisons do?

Legislative Liaisons help their clubs influence local, state, and federal legislative issues affecting purebred dogs and their owners. Their responsibilities include:

- Monitoring their local news and staying aware of issues which may impact our sport.
- Alerting the AKC to pending legislative issues in their communities or states.
- Presenting the views and interests of the purebred dog fancy to lawmakers, other citizens, and news media.
- Receiving materials, updates, and advice from the AKC Government Relations Department and distributing information to fellow club members.
- Organizing and motivating club members to become active in the legislative process, and encouraging other interested fanciers to help advance legislation that will benefit purebred dog owners and breeders.
- Sharing their clubs' experiences and expertise with government officials, members of the community, and other interested fanciers.
- Preparing their clubs for action should a legislative initiative arise that requires input from purebred dog owners and breeders.

How does AKC's Government Relations Department help?

- Free information packets, position statements, sample legislation, and brochures created and distributed by the department help keep Legislative Liaisons informed.
- *Taking Command* e-newsletter and e-mail updates keep Legislative Liaisons up-to-date on canine legislative issues occurring around the country.
- Legislative Alerts, brochures, and other vital information are posted on AKC's web site (www.akc.org) regularly.
- Assistance contacting other liaisons and federations of dog clubs that will share their experiences in different areas of canine legislation.

How can I become a Legislative Liaison?

Check to see if your club has a liaison or legislative committee. If so, volunteer to assist the involved members. If not:

- Volunteer. Explain to your club officers what this position means, and ask that the club either elect or appoint a liaison.
- Let the AKC know. Have a club officer send a note on club stationary with the new liaison's name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address to the address below.

Questions? Contact AKC Government Relations for more information.

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