



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New from AKC Government Relations

May has been a busy month for the AKC Government Relations Team. In addition to GR's standard legislative tracking, the team continues to provide daily [updates on COVID-19 related](#) legislation, executive orders and other requirements at the federal and state level. The introduction of [The Healthy Dog Importation Act](#) provides the USDA with additional tools to monitor the health of dogs being imported into the U.S. to ensure that all dogs are healthy and not a threat to spread dangerous diseases that could adversely impact public health. The measure builds on the work of multiple organizations including AKC, the National Animal Interest Alliance and others concerned about the possible health threats to pets, livestock and the public from large-scale imports of dogs, particularly from random/unregulated sources, without appropriate health checks.

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## U.S. Congress: AKC Lauds Introduction of Healthy Dog Importation Act to Protect Animal and Public Health

The American Kennel Club welcomes the introduction today of the [Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2020](#) in the

U.S. House of Representatives. AKC is grateful for the bipartisan leadership of Congressmen Abraham (LA-5), Schrader (OR-5) and Yoho (FL-3) in sponsoring the bill, and believes this will go a long way to addressing concerns about recent documented incidents of unhealthy dogs being imported into the U.S.

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## **AKC Government Relations Releases First of New Series of Comprehensive Policy Briefs, on Dangerous Dog Policy**

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) is pleased to announce the release of the first in a new series of public policy briefs. [Why Breed-Specific Legislation Doesn't Work: An Analysis of Dangerous Dog Policy](#) is a comprehensive product that provides lawmakers, advocates, and the public with in-depth analysis, case studies, and model language in support of breed-neutral dangerous dog policies.

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## **Not Sure if You Should be Licensed by USDA? Here's Some Help!**

Earlier this week, the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [published the finalization](#) of the new Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations. Here are some of the most important changes USDA has made.

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## **Supporting Dog-Friendly Candidates in These Uncertain Times**

This is a big election year. Not only is it a presidential election year, but every state will be electing members to Congress, and thirty-three states will be electing a federal Senator.

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## **Headed Back to Work? Things to Do—and Not Do—to Make Sure Your Dog is Ready**

Shelter in place orders across much of the U.S. have provided many pet owners unlimited time with their dogs. People who ordinarily are away from home for hours each day have been largely restricted to their residences under COVID-19 safety protocols. This extra "people time" is a bonus for well-loved dogs.

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## **A Response to HSUS's Troubled Blog of May 7, 2020**

The picture painted of the American Kennel Club in a blog published by HSUS was filled with so many inaccuracies, we've decided to try to fix the inaccuracies section by section, rather than write a full rebuttal.

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## Legislative Information and Updates

The U.S. House of Representatives and 25 states are technically currently in session, although many are currently on an extended recess as a result of the COVID-19 virus. AKC Government Relations continues to monitor than 2,300 bills at the federal, state, and local levels. The COVID-19 outbreak and response has had a dramatic impact on legislatures and policy-making at all levels of government. Below are some highlights of pending legislation impacting dog ownership and dog owners rights across the country. For more information on these bills, and information on how you can get involved, visit the AKC GR Legislative Action Center at [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

Visit the [2020 Legislation Tracking page](#) for the most up-to-date information on state and federal legislation. This site, updated each weekday, provides the latest bill text, status, and links to legislative alerts posted by the AKC. Click on the links below to view highlights of issues that are being tracked by AKC Government Relations:

### Federal

Issues that may affect all dog owners in the U.S.

### State

Issues specific to your state

### Local

Issues at the city, county, and metropolitan levels, and in U.S. territories

Please contact AKC GR at (919) 816-3720 or [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.



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