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# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

## AKC's Taking Command



### What's New from AKC Government Relations

March came in like a lion and continues to roar for the American Kennel Club's Government Relations department (AKC GR). The GR team is currently tracking over 2,000 pieces of legislation and has sent out a record number of alerts to ensure that your rights as a dog owner, breeder, and fancier are not infringed upon.

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### New in The AKC GR Toolbox: One-Page Introduction to AKC Specifically for Policymakers

This year seems to be flying by, but it's not too late to introduce yourself and your club to your local lawmakers.

AKC GR is proud to provide you with the resources you need to make your introductions and meetings with policymakers positive and successful. A great place to start is by sharing information about the beneficial impacts that dog clubs, owners, breeders and the AKC have in the community. Many lawmakers know very little about this, and it's up to us as constituents to ensure

their information about AKC is accurate and positive.

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## Did you know: Government Relations Awards

Did you know the AKC has several grant opportunities and awards that are given throughout the year to various AKC clubs, federations, and other exceptional community leaders who work to advance responsible dog ownership? Read more about the award opportunities. You can find these award nominations in the Legislative Action Center

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## Latest Research Supports AKC Push For Increased Supply of U.S.-Bred Government Working Dogs

A recent report from the Graduate School of Defense Management at the Naval Postgraduate School revealed the importance of working dogs within the U.S. Department of Defense and other federal agencies. The report backs concerns previously raised by the [AKC Detection Dog Task Force](#) about over-reliance on foreign-sourced dogs being placed as Government Working Dogs (GWD). The report contains an in-depth analysis of the GWD industry and provides recommendations to improve the sourcing of U.S.-bred and trained dogs.

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## **American Kennel Club Presents Massachusetts Representative Tackey Chan With AKC Legislator of The Year Award**

The American Kennel Club (AKC) presented Massachusetts Representative Tackey Chan on March 4, 2021, with the AKC Legislator of the Year award in recognition of his advocacy for ensuring consumer protections when purchasing a pet in the state.

The award was presented by Gale Golden, President of the Framingham District Kennel Club (FDKC), noting “the Chairman was responsive to the issues presented and concerns raised before proposing a policy solution. The AKC and FDKC would like to thank Chairman Chan for all the work done and recognize him as 2020 Legislator of the Year.”

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## **Task Force Works To Protect Breeders from Anti-Breeder Harassment & Retaliation**

Have you, as a breeder, been targeted or harassed after you participated in a legislative process, commented on a proposed law or regulation, or communicated your opinion on a dog-related issue? Let’s ask that question more plainly: Do you believe that something suspicious, threatening, or unjustified occurred just because you took action on an issue that affects your rights to own and breed dogs?

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## Legislative Information and Updates

Listed 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).

In addition to tracking and responding to legislative proposals, AKC Government Relations addresses dog-related regulatory proposals from the U.S. federal government, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia. AKC Government Relations) is currently tracking approximately 750 regulatory proposals. Click the links below to read highlights from this past month.

AKC GR's Regulatory Resource Center provides updates on our federal and state regulatory work that may impact dog owners.

Visit the [2021 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

### Regulatory

Regulatory issues at the federal, state, and local levels

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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