



# Taking Command

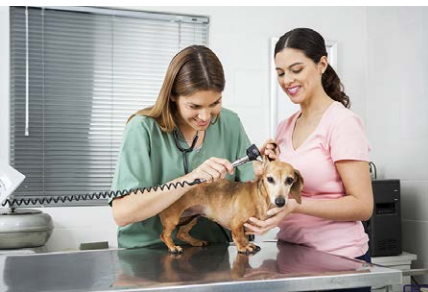
A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New from AKC Government Relations

Spring is an incredibly busy season for those involved with canine legislation. As it currently stands, thirty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are still in session, and AKC GR is currently tracking more than 2,000 bills across the United States.

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## CDC Import Rules: New Guidance Changes Vaccine Requirements, Shifts Focus to Canine Rabies

[Recently released guidance](#) from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides clarification on the interpretation of “rabies free” that it uses when determining whether a dog can be imported into the U.S. without a valid rabies vaccination certificate.

Previously, all dogs admitted into the U.S. were required to be accompanied by a valid rabies vaccination certificate unless the dog’s owner or importer submitted satisfactory evidence that the dog (if older than 6 months of age) had only been in a rabies-free country for the six months preceding arrival in the U.S.

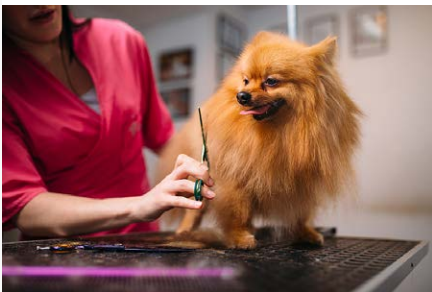
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## AKC Celebrates 7th Annual “Canines at the Capitol” Event at NC General Assembly

On a very busy day at the State Capitol, North Carolina legislators and staff were thrilled to once again welcome the American Kennel Club for the annual AKC Canines at the Capitol event. The AKC invited them to “come hug a dog on your lunch break” and they did just that in one of the best-attended days yet since AKC first started hosting this event.

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## AKC Government Relations: How it Affects the Grooming Industry & What You Can Do to Help

The American Kennel Club Government Relations department has been working on a series of articles for Groomer to Groomer magazine. Although the articles are geared towards professional groomers, the overarching themes are evergreen and can be applied to all forms of dog related policy.

[Read the First Article](#)

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## New RSS Feed for Legislative Alerts

AKC Government Relations (GR) is constantly seeking new ways to improve our outreach and resources for dog owners impacted by potential changes in public policy. To broaden access to our legislative alerts, we have



embedded an RSS Feed on the AKC GR Legislative Alerts page. RSS Feeds, short for Really Simple Syndication, are a way to subscribe to a source of information, such as a web page, and get updates delivered to your inbox when new information has been added to that specific web page. We hope this will improve access to important legislative alert and updates.

[Read More](#)

## Legislative Information and Updates

Thirty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are currently in session. Five states have already adjourned for the year, and Louisiana is accepting pre-filed bills for its upcoming session. AKC GR is currently tracking more than 2,000 bills across the United States. AKC GR is currently tracking more than 2,000 bills across the United States. 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). Here are some highlights of pending canine legislation issues across the country.

Visit the [2019 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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