



American Kennel Club Government Relations: An Overview





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Vice President,
Government
Relations

Topics

- Overview of AKC Government Relations
- Common legislation/ Legislative Trends
- Resources
- Q&A



AKC Government Relations

“ ... To advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership .”

-- AKC Mission Statement

What Does AKC GR Do?

- Advocate for rights of responsible dog breeders & owners
- Monitor & Respond to legislation daily –2,200 + bills so far in 2019!
- Educate about threats to responsible dog ownership and future of our breeds
- Provide resources to empower responsible dog owners to defend the right to own, breed and sell dogs in a responsible manner



AKC GR Takes a grassroots Approach

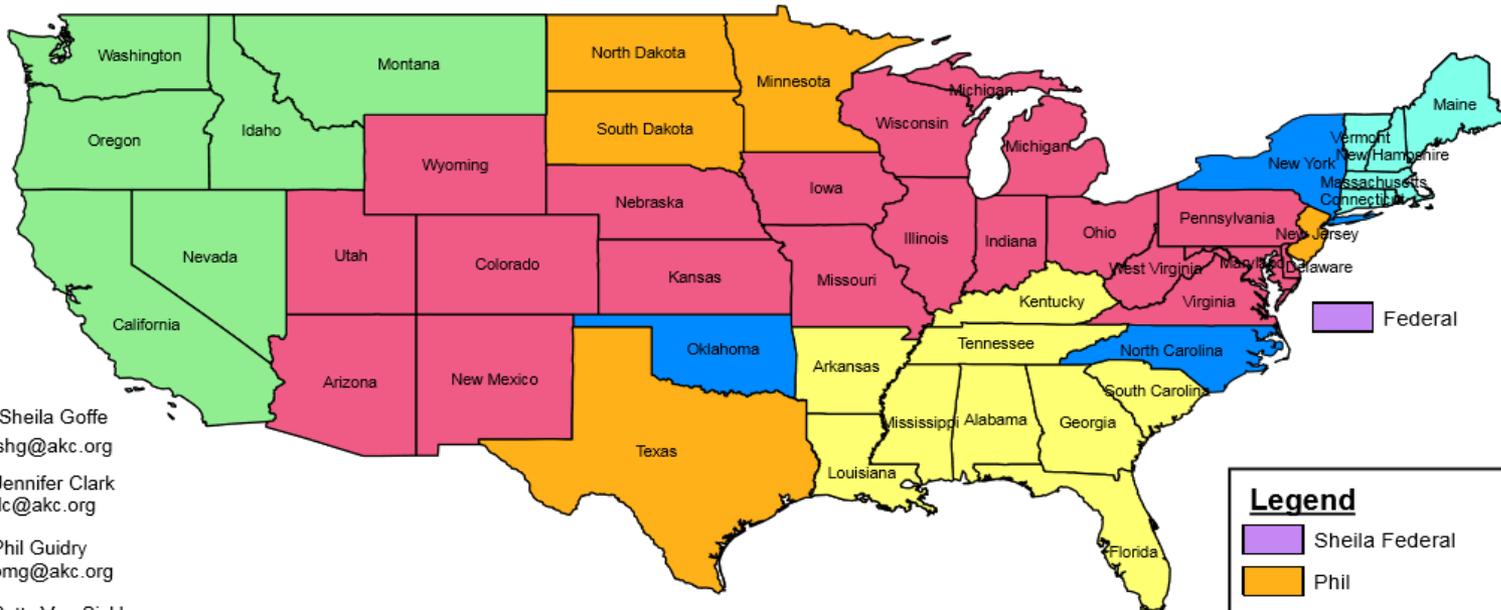
AKC GR provides information, tools & support to help constituents lead and succeed.

Active Legislative Liaisons are key.



GR Staff State Assignments

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Federal

Legend

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- Jennifer
- Patty
- Robert Miller
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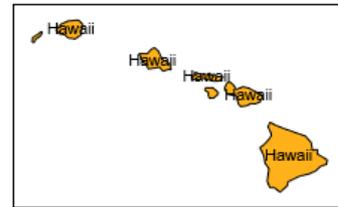
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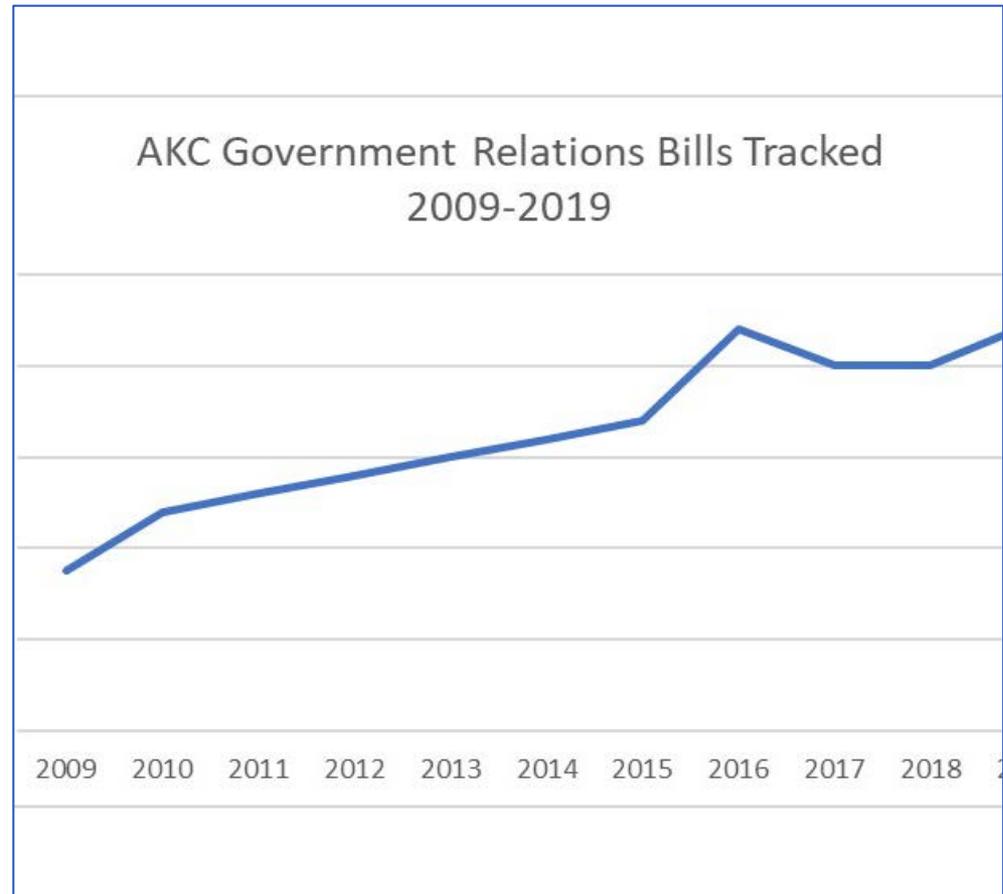
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Date: 9/19/2018

Legislation/Regulatory Status

- 2,150+ F/S bills monitored
- Action on 50 + local bills
- 450 pending regs



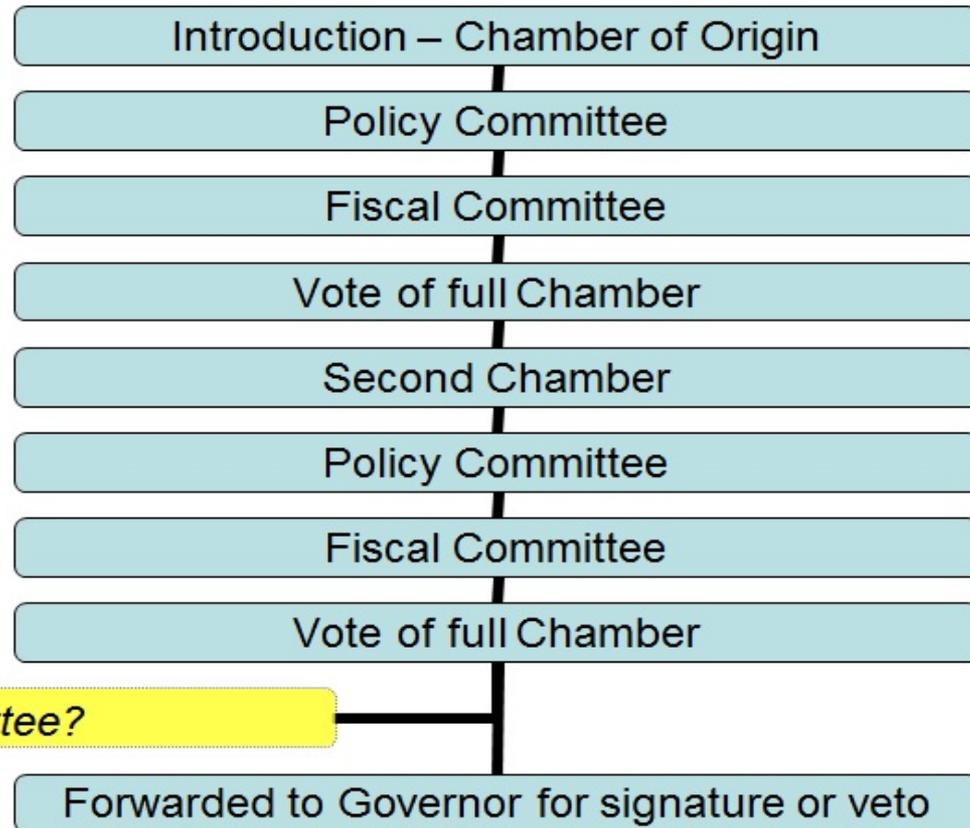
Origins of Canine Legislation

- Legislators see a problem and want to fix it
- Pressure from community to find solution
- Most policymakers aren't dog experts, they need help from people who are!



***This is an opportunity to educate & impact policy
– be a resource before there's an issue.***

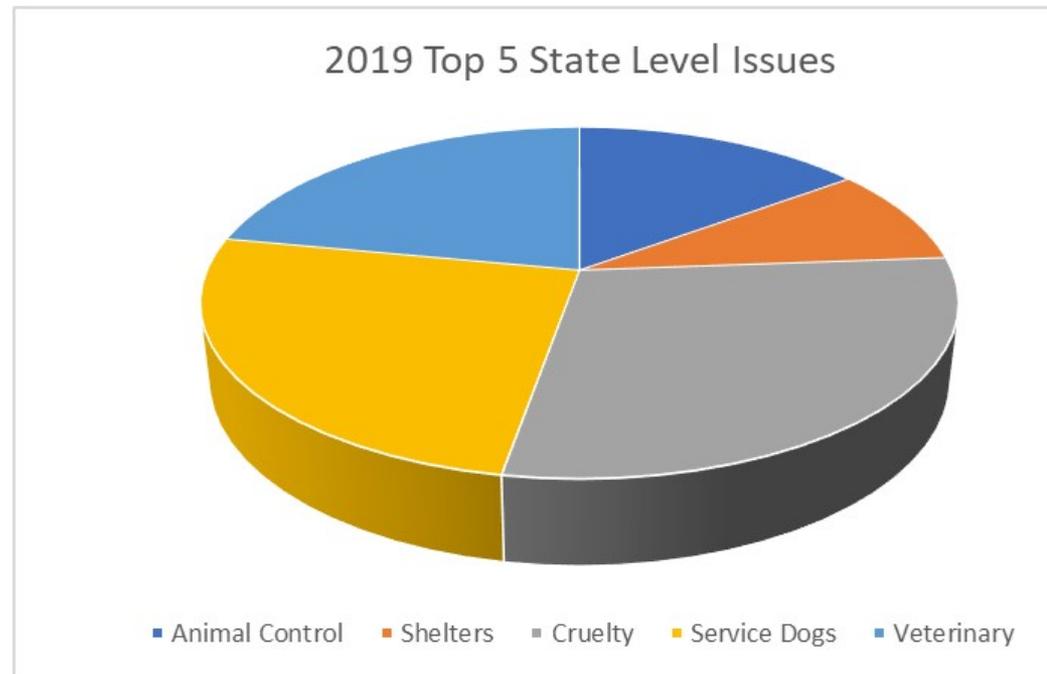
Legislative Process 101



Key Issue Categories

Top 5 YTD (Introduced)

1. Cruelty **
2. Service Dogs
3. Veterinary Practice
4. Animal Control
5. Shelters



What Does BSL Look Like?

- Ownership bans
- Mandatory spay/neuter
- Insurance requirements
- Higher license fees
- Discriminatory laws



Legislative Hot Issues- Breeder Regulations

- Limits on animal ownership
- Strict engineering standards
- Limits on breeding ages/litters
- Warrantless inspections
- Ambiguous definitions



Legislative Hot Issues - Dogs in Cars

- Concerns with pet theft
- Liability questions



Legislative Hot Issues - Tethering

- Humane tethering v. cruelty
- Consider function
- Practical Aspects: Grooming, Training

No animal should be left in conditions where health and safety are at risk.



Legislative Hot Issues- Pet Store Restrictions

- Limit consumer choice
- Remove consumer protection
- Does not break chain of shelter recidivism
- Incentivizes 1 MM annual imports



Animal Rights Extremism: Anti-Breeder, Anti-Dog

- Allegations of Animal Cruelty are key to fundraising for political agenda
- Goal: Not to improve, but to *stop* breeding & animal use
- Methodology: Use outliers & emotion to change public perception; control debate; laws follow



“Beware the wolf in sheep’s clothing”

Animal Rights/“Protection” v. Animal Welfare/Experts

Animal Rights Tactics

Agenda based legislation

- Seek restrictions rather than enforcement of existing problems; the ends justify the means
- “Non-scientific, self-referential, emotional testimony, usually based on outlier situation
- Misinformation or discredited information
- Use of animals is cruel

Animal Welfare: A Better Solution

Issue based legislation

- Address specific, real problems with real solutions
- Science-based management and husbandry practices
- Support and emphasize human-animal bond in working environment
- Reasonable cruelty laws cover a wide variety of issues



Video

Don't Lose What You Love

Tools & Resources

WWW.AKCGR.ORG



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

- LAC Home
- Legislative Tracking
- GR Toolbox
- Legislative Alerts
- News & Blogs
- Key Issues
- Regulatory Resources
- Donate

Welcome to the AKC GR Legislative Action Center

Welcome to our Legislative Action Center! View the Blue tabs above to navigate this site. Here you can access a list of AKC Government Relations resources available to help you be effective advocates for responsible dog ownership and breeding! Be sure to check back often, as we are continuously adding new items.



[AKC GR Toolbox](#)

[Additional Resources:](#)

[Policy Position Statements](#)

[Federations of AKC Dog Clubs and other Allied Groups](#)

[Organizing a State Federation of Dog Clubs](#)

[Legislative Liaisons](#)

[Educational Presentations & Videos](#)

[Legislative Successes](#)

[2018 State Economic Impact Statistics](#)

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Advocacy/Community Outreach Awards

Presented to Support Club Efforts

- Bebout Awards for Legislative leadership
- CLSF Educational MicroGrants
- AKC Community Achievement Awards



Advocacy/Community Outreach Awards

Presented by AKC & Clubs

- Legislator of the Year
- Dog Friendly Community
- AKC Canine Officer Program (K9 COP)





Questions?

Thank you

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Club Operations and Governance

Wednesday, September 4 at 8:00pm ET

Guy Fisher

Manager, Club Development

WEBINAR

