



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

This summer and fall hundreds of clubs and dog organizations around the country, along with other pet-related organizations, will host Responsible Dog Ownership Days to help educate the public in their communities about the responsibilities of dog ownership and help current owners enhance their relationships with their pets. These events consist of educational booths, action packed dog demonstrations, games, activities to try out with your dog, microchipping, health clinics and more. Owning a dog has endless pleasures and rewards, but we all need a friendly reminder about the obligations we have to our pets in return.

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USDA APHIS Releases 2018 Impact Report

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) released its first-ever 2018 Impact Report. This 10-page report details the agency's achievements in 2018 with easy-to-read infographics.

[Read the report](#)



Ohio — How A Multi-Pronged Strategy Drove Legislative Success

In July, the Ohio General Assembly approved an amendment to confirm that breeders should not be regulated as retail pet stores. This brief amendment, buried on page 328 of the Ohio general operating budget, represents the culmination of years of work – both publicly and behind the scenes – to ensure comprehensive, reasonable, and effective laws regulating those who breed and sell dogs in Ohio.

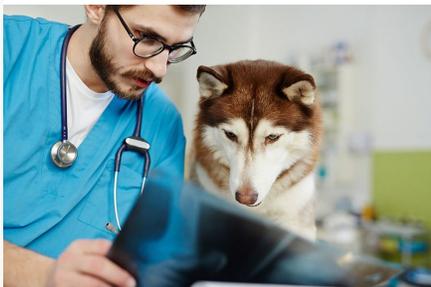
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Good Samaritan Laws: Unintended Consequences Require a Balanced Approach

More people than ever before are including their dogs in vacation travels and everyday activities. By and large, this is a great thing, and most owners know that leaving a dog in a car, even with ventilation, can create a risky situation for the dog. But recent proposals that seek to remedy dangerous situations may also create serious unresolved legal issues and unintended consequences.

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Experts Convene at AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference

The 2019 AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, held August 9-11 in St. Louis, MO, brought together researchers, American

Kennel Club (AKC) Parent Club members, breeders, veterinarians, veterinary residents, and veterinary students to discuss the latest findings in canine health research. The biennial event, sponsored by Purina, also hosted break-out sessions for veterinary students (sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) and AKC), panel discussions with researchers, and social events to facilitate networking and collaboration among attendees, all with the goal of improving the health and well-being of dogs.

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AKC GR Demonstrates Canine Policy Expertise at Largest-Ever Summit of State Legislators

In mid-August thousands of state legislators and staff from across the country attended the largest-ever National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) annual summit, in Nashville, Tennessee. Once again, the AKC Government Relations booth proved to be one of the most popular exhibits at the conference.

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ALEC Offers AKC Government Relations Opportunity to Share Policies, Good Works

In August, AKC's Government Relations Department returned to the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) Annual Meeting to represent the policy interests of the AKC and of its breeders and owners. Dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets, and federalism, the non-partisan ALEC provides attendees

and exhibitors at its Annual Meeting numerous opportunities to engage in thoughtful policy discussions

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Legislative Information and Updates

Ten states and the District of Columbia are currently in session. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 2,100 bills on the federal, state, and local levels. 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.

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 for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.



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