



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

We hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. We know you are washing your hands, wearing your mask, and keeping a safe distance from others, but we have heard many people worry about [whether their beloved dogs could catch or spread the virus](#). In recently updated guidance, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reiterated that there is no evidence that animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19 to people or that pets may be a source of infection in the U.S. Nevertheless, it also reiterated the importance of people continuing to practice [healthy habits around pets and other animals](#), including washing hands and maintaining good hygiene.

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On National Purebred Dog Day, Your Lawmaker Should Hear From You!

National Purebred Dog Day is a great opportunity to educate your legislator about the importance of purpose-bred dogs. On May 1st, reach out to your decision makers through email and social media and let them know the many reasons you love purebred dogs.

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Celebrate National Purebred Dog Day on May 1st!

This year's National Purebred Dog Day (NPDD) may look a little different. NPDD is traditionally celebrated on May 1 and originally created by Colorado dog enthusiast Susi Szeremy in 2013 as a way to increase awareness and celebrate all of the ways purebred dogs better our lives. Thousands of breeders and dog owners from across the United States celebrate purpose-bred dogs and the predictability of breeds.

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A Letter From Dennis Sprung To Congress On Government Assistance Packages

Re: American Kennel Club -- Non-Political Non-Profits Generate Local Economic Activity -- Need Same Federal Pandemic Relief Offered to 501(c) 3 Organizations.

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AKC GR Celebrates Record First Quarter Of Legislative Successes For Dogs, Dog Owners

Building on the record number of bills introduced in 2019, the new year began with dozens of hearings across the country on bills impacting dogs and dog owners.

While this meant a significant amount of effort in quickly

and effectively educating lawmakers and responding to fast-moving legislatures, it has resulted in an all-time record of legislative successes for the first quarter of the year.

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Which AKC Breed Group Does Your Club's Legislative Liaison Resemble? Plus, Nominate Your LL For A Special Reward!

Like the dogs we love, AKC Legislative Liaisons possess unique and valuable characteristics that benefit mankind. They come from a variety of backgrounds, and although some have formal training, most are self-taught. They are willing workers who perform a variety of important functions on behalf of their clubs—for scarce rewards and not nearly enough attaboys/attagirls.

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COVID-19 Reinforces Need For Healthy Habits Around Pets

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Animal-Based Research Helps Scientists Develop Responses To COVID-19

As the world reels from the COVID-19 pandemic, it eagerly anticipates a vaccine to reduce or eliminate the virus' public health threat. With AKC events across the country cancelled or postponed, the vast majority of us in the dog world are practicing social distancing and self-isolation to help avoid, or prevent the further spread of, the virus. As states do almost everything possible to best protect residents against COVID-19, we—the breeders, owners, fanciers, and enthusiasts who serve as the backbone of AKC—must remember how animals are contributing to the development of life-saving medicines and sustainable global health.

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USDA Urges Caution As SARS-CoV-2 Confirmed In Tiger Kept At NY Zoo

[This weekend, news broke of a confirmed case of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 in humans, in a tiger at the Bronx Zoo in New York.](#) Six other big cats at the facility are also exhibiting symptoms consistent with the illness. All are under veterinary care and are expected to recover.

The infected tiger likely contracted the coronavirus from an infected but asymptomatic zookeeper. The case highlights the need for further studies to understand if and how different animals could be affected by COVID-19. While there are no reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States, the case is the first known of a non-domesticated animal with COVID-19 symptoms.

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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.

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



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American Kennel Club, 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178

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