



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

It's safe to say this summer has turned out to be different than any other before. Whether you turn on the news, social media, or talk to your friends and family, COVID-19 continues to be top of mind. While you may assume that this has caused a hiatus on all other legislative efforts, including animal welfare, the American Kennel Club Government Relations (AKC GR) team continues to track legislation, often under the radar, that could potentially have extreme impacts on your life with your dogs.

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Is Your Agility Dog Illegally At Large? The Impact of Overreaching Animal Laws on Dog Sports and Events

If you haven't already heard about problematic animal laws that affect dog events, then it's time to get up to speed on this issue because increasingly restrictive legislation is being introduced every day. Numerous animal laws proposed in recent years have crossed the line from reasonable to overreaching—and some may even be harmful to the dogs they are supposed to protect.

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Don't Rubber-Stamp Misguided Pet Policy

This legislative session, some lawmakers in Boston, expressing concerns about conditions where professionally raised pets are bred and raised, filed a bill that nonsensically would ban pet shops from selling purpose-bred pets from regulated U.S. breeders and instead require them to sell only randomly sourced pets from animal rescues or shelters.

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Updated Legislative Successes

The following list highlights some of the AKC Government Relations' (AKC GR) legislative successes through July 17, 2020. These and other victories have been won in cooperation with AKC federations, clubs, and responsible dog owners and breeders around the country who continue to work tirelessly to promote positive canine legislation in their state and community.

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American Kennel Club Honors Fancier Mary McFaun with AKC Community Achievement Award

The American Kennel Club is pleased to announce Mary McFaun as the winner of the Quarter 1 Community Achievement Award. McFaun serves on Vermont's Animal Cruelty Advisory Investigation Board (ACIAB), a board created in 2015 by the VT Senate Judiciary



Committee and had no representation for dog enthusiasts until McFaun and the Vermont (VT) Federation of Dog Clubs got involved. As a member of the board, she is tasked with coordinating policy efforts that are agreeable to many different factions, as well as clarifying current laws to ensure cruelty investigations meet legal requirements for prosecuting animal cruelty. But being just a member of the board was not enough for her – McFaun also sits on the executive board of the ACIAB, serving as secretary to ensure the minutes of the meetings were not slanted or misconstrued by rival groups.

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Legislative Information and Updates

The U.S. House of Representatives and 15 states are currently in session, and three states remain on an extended recess as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. AKC Government Relations continues to monitor approximately 1,900 active bills at the federal, state, and local levels. The COVID-19 outbreak and response has had a dramatic impact on legislatures and policymaking 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.

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 (AKC GR) is currently tracking approximately 750 regulatory proposals, the majority of

which concern land use/hunting regulations and those governing the practice of veterinary medicine. Click the link 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. Check it out at www.cqrcengage.com/akc.org/regcenter.

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

Regulatory

Regulatory issues at the federal, state, and local levels

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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