



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New from AKC Government Relations

Election Day is November 3. In these final days leading up to the election, candidates are vying for your vote. You may receive phone calls, mailers, or even a direct appeal from the candidate. As you go to your polling place for early voting or on Election Day, you may pass dozens of workers with signs, stickers, and hand-outs who seek a last-minute chance to influence your vote. You may even personally meet some candidates.

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## Breeder Expertise, Thoughtful Analysis Demonstrate Dangerous Flaws In 'Feel Good' Dog Law

U.S. Senator Richard Durbin introduced the “Puppy Protection Act” (S. 4757), a companion to U.S. House Bill 4552—measures that the AKC has expressed concerns about.

The proposal establishes federal mandates for animal care for pet breeders subject to USDA licensing and inspections. While many people think of this as the realm “commercial breeders”, it also impacts small specialty and hobby breeders.

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## New in the Legislative Action Center: Dogs in Vehicles Policy Resources

More and more Americans are traveling with their dogs. While by and large this is a great thing, it has raised concerns when dogs are left in vehicles when their health and safety could be at risk.

To address this concern, legislation has been proposed in multiple states over the past few years that allow private citizens to remove animals from vehicles if they believe the animal is in danger. These are commonly known as “Good Samaritan Laws”.

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## Just In Time For Winter – A New PAC Mask Design!

With the winter shows around the corner, masks have become a necessary element of dog shows. Make sure your mask is sending the right message by supporting the American Kennel Club Political Action Committee (AKC PAC). Now when you purchase a mask, you can pick between our new Royal Blue mask design or our Black mask design. [Please fill out this form to let us know how many masks you would like and of what kind.](#)

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## AKC Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP)



## **Introduces New Manager, Phase Two Plans**

The American Kennel Club Detection Dog Task Force is pleased to announce the appointment of Stacey West as Manager and Subject Matter Expert to lead Phase II of the AKC Patriotic Puppy Pilot Program.

The Patriotic Puppy Program is a pilot program designed to study how American breeders can provide a suitable and reliable source of future explosives detection dogs for advanced training and deployment by law enforcement or government agencies.

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## **Legislative Information and Updates**

Eleven states are currently in session or special session, and several additional states are expected to hold special sessions and/or interim committee hearings over the next couple of months. The U.S. House and Senate are in recess until after the election. To date, AKC Government Relations has tracked more than 3,300 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 canine legislation issues across the country:

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](http://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 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 links 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](http://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](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.



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