

Image



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

## AKC's Taking Command



### What's New from AKC Government Relations

The results of several elections may still not be official, but our outreach as responsible dog owners, exhibitors, and breeders needs to begin now. Many states elected a large number of new lawmakers on the federal, state, and local levels – most of whom likely know very little about canine legislation.

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### Planning A 2021 Event? Check Out AKC Government Relations' Resources For Clubs

As the pandemic continues, states are looking for ways to ensure the safety of residents and prevent further outbreaks. This means numerous regulations and guidelines – particularly regarding any public gathering or event.

This may seem frustrating, but with advance planning, patience, and communication, clubs may have a better chance of success.

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## New in the Legislative Action Center: Updated Limit Law Handout For Legislators

As part of AKC Government Relations' continued effort to empower dog owners and advocates, we are continuing to provide new and updated policy resources in the Key Issues section of the AKC Legislative Action Center.

In an effort to address animal control, nuisance, and humane care concerns, many lawmakers seek to enact limits on animal ownership. To help dog owners communicate the many concerns and problems with limit laws, AKC GR has updated [a one page, printable handout](#) with talking points for legislators.

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## New Material On Dogs In Inclement Weather

As part of AKC Government Relations' continued effort to empower and equip dog owners and advocates, we are continuing to provide new and updated resources to the AKC Legislative Action Center.

In response to some tragic situations, some lawmakers have sought to enact laws aimed at protecting dogs when they are outside in extreme weather. Many of these proposals unfortunately include a one-size fits all approach that does not address all dogs and situations. To help dog owners communicate the many concerns and problems that arise with a one-size fits all approach, AKC GR has developed [a one page, printable handout](#) with talking points for legislators and posted it in the AKC Legislative Action Center Toolbox.

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## **New In The Legislative Action Center: Updated Dangerous Dog Policy Resources**

As part of AKC Government Relations' continued effort to empower dog owners and advocates, we are providing new and updated policy resources in the Key Issues section of the AKC Legislative Action Center.

As the issue of dangerous dogs continues to be of concern to state and local governments, AKC GR has updated a number of our resources on the [Breed-Specific/Dangerous Dog Laws key issue page](#), including: [Updated one-page issue brief with talking points for legislators](#) and [Updated map of states that prohibit BSL](#).

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## **Webinar Introduces New Manager, New Direction For AKC Patriotic Puppy Program**

In an online event last night, the American Kennel Club Detection Dog Task Force introduced new Patriotic Puppy Program Manager Stacey West to a broad audience of dog trainers, breeders, detection industry experts and future puppy raisers.

The webinar, [AKC's Patriotic Puppy Program: Program Updates and a Conversation with Stacey West](#), emphasized new initiatives in [phase two of the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program](#).

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### **Denver Ballot Measure 2J: A First Step For Restoring Dog Owner Rights**

For over 30 years, the City of Denver has banned the ownership of “pit bulls” in the city – a policy that has punished responsible dog owners and innocent dogs in the city for decades.

During this election, Denver voters have the opportunity to vote on a ballot measure that will scale back this ban by allowing “pit bulls” in the city with restrictions and special licensing. While not ideal, if passed, it would be a step forward in removing the arbitrary ban that focuses solely on a dog’s appearance, rather than any negative or dangerous actions.

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## **Legislative Information and Updates**

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are back in session, and 8 states are in session currently or in special session this month. Others are currently recessed but may be called back at any time, or have scheduled returns within the next few weeks. AKC Government Relations continues to monitor more than 3,300 bills at the federal, state, and local levels. The COVID-19 outbreak and response continue to have 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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