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# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

## AKC's Taking Command



### What's New from AKC Government Relations

The AKC Government Relations team is off to a busy start for 2021. Currently, 47 state legislatures are in session and many dog-related bills have already been introduced. ( [link to state section](#)). Congress has been busy with organizing with new leadership, the impeachment, COVID and budgetary issues. So far this year, AKC GR is already tracking approximately 1,000 bills with the potential to impact dog ownership or canine wellbeing. We anticipate a significant additional amount of new canine legislation, both positive and problematic, to be introduced in the states, local communities and Congress over the next several months.

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### Advocate For Dogs on Your Mobile Phone: AKC Legislative Alerts Now Available on Your Mobile Device

AKC Government Relations is pleased to announce a new, easy-to use option for dog owners to engage in canine policy issues directly from their mobile device.

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Individuals who receive AKC legislative alerts are now eligible to sign up for [AKC Legislative Alerts](#) via text messaging.\*

In addition to getting real-time text alerts about issues that impact you and your dogs, AKC GR mobile alerts can help you make sure your voice is heard on important issues by taking immediate action from your mobile device.

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## **Responsible Trainers vs. Misguided Laws—AKC Works with Dog Trainers to Address Restrictive Legislation**

“COVID puppy.” A year ago, this term didn’t exist. As COVID-19 restrictions ease and American Kennel Club (AKC) events, club activities, and dog training classes resume, puppies and recently acquired adult dogs are venturing out after long months of safer-at-home restrictions.

AKC clubs that offer training classes, private trainers, and dog training businesses are gearing up for a return to in-person classes where they will be dealing with dogs emerging from lockdown. However, recent legislative proposals could negatively affect the availability of dog training classes and limit training methodologies.

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### **Invitation: AKC DDTF Webinar Series: “So Your Dog Isn’t Cut Out for Explosives Detection? Here Are Other Opportunities.”**

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force invites you to join the latest webinar in the DDTF series for a unique learning experience concerning other opportunities for confident puppies not selected for explosives detection.

“So Your Dog Isn’t Cut Out for Explosives Detection Work? Here Are Other Opportunities.”

The online event will take place Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 7:30pm ET.

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### **In Memoriam: AKC GR Mourns Passing of Julian Prager**

The AKC Government Relations Department mourns the passing of Julian Prager, an extraordinary legislative leader, Bulldog breeder, and passionate advocate for dogs.

Mr. Prager was active in animal welfare and particularly canine issues by avocation and throughout his career and authored improvements to federal, state, and municipal dog laws.

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## Task Force Works To Protect Breeders from Anti-Breeder Harassment & Retaliation

Have you, as a breeder, been targeted or harassed after you participated in a legislative process, commented on a proposed law or regulation, or communicated your opinion on a dog-related issue? Let's ask that question more plainly: Do you believe that something suspicious, threatening, or unjustified occurred just because you took action on an issue that affects your rights to own and breed dogs?

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### Legislative Information and Updates

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives will return from recess the week of February 21. Forty-seven states are in session this month.

Listed 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 carried over from 2020, 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.

Visit the [2021 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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