

## AKC GR Update June 2021

### Delegates All Breed Club Committee Meeting

Currently, 23 states are in session. Congress is on Memorial Day break and scheduled to return the week of June 13. To date, AKC GR is tracking more than 2,100 bills at the state level (as well as local and federal bills) that could impact dog ownership, the wellbeing of dogs or AKC events and operations. This includes positive as well as negative legislation. This count does not include the 555 bills related to COVID that could impact dog sports, clubs etc.

To date, AKC GR has released **175 geo-targeted legislative action alerts** on important legislation asking club members to take action.

As of June 1, the **most common issues we are addressing across the country are** (aside from “covid” and “other”):

1. Animal Cruelty,
2. Working Dogs,
3. Animal Control,
4. Rescues/Shelters, and
5. legislation potentially impacting AKC events.

AKC GR will be sending a more complete legislative update to delegates next week just ahead of the Delegates Meeting.

**PAC Outreach to Parent Clubs** – Many parent and specialty clubs auction off or charge for reserved grooming, RV or parking spaces and prime ringside seating. The AKC PAC is launching a fundraising initiative in which we are asking every national specialty to set aside one or more of each of these spaces, and to have the purchaser(s) of those spaces to donate that money to the AKC PAC instead. *Every parent club delegate (along with secretaries and presidents along and national specialty show chairs) has been emailed a letter from the AKC PAC, asking for your assistance and participation in supporting this effort. Aside from direct political engagement, this is one of the easiest ways that clubs can help support our government relations efforts.*

As this program grows, we intend to expand it to all breed clubs, who also increasingly offer reserved grooming and parking spaces at their shows.

**Recent Successes** - AKC GR is pleased to be able to report many successes so far this year. A list of a few of the top successes was provided to the parent club, and a wider list will be sent to delegates next week, along with the regular “booth alert” update. This information is also available online at [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

As a reminder, delegates, legislative liaisons, and club officers automatically get AKC legislative alerts impacting constituents in the geographic area covered by their clubs, unless they have opted out of these alerts. GR relies on club legislative liaisons – as well as delegates and club officers-- to ensure that these alerts are forwarded to their club members in a timely manner so they can take action immediately. We truly appreciate the role that delegates play in this!

GR relies on email and use of our legislative action center located at [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org) for communicating with club members about important issues. *We urge anyone who has questions about an issue to contact AKC GR directly at 919-816-3720 or [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).* We’re here to help!

## **Other Updates**

**Op Eds Published** – AKC GR has published several recent Op Eds in recent weeks to educate the public about key legislative issues. For information on other Op Eds and outreach, visit [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org)

June 2: A Radical Push to Give Animals the Rights & Privileges of Humans, Inside Sources  
<https://insidesources.com/a-radical-push-to-give-animals-the-rights-and-privileges-of-humans/>

May 18: Pet Store Ban Would Harm Dog Owners, NY Newsday  
[https://cqrcengage.com/akc/file/KuD4wWSNmBz/Pet%20store%20ban%20would%20harm%20dog%20owners%20\\_%20Newsday.pdf](https://cqrcengage.com/akc/file/KuD4wWSNmBz/Pet%20store%20ban%20would%20harm%20dog%20owners%20_%20Newsday.pdf)

## **Tools/Other**

We have introduced a new **brochure about travelling with Service and Emotional Support Dogs** to assist people in understanding the new airline rules pertaining to assistance animals.  
[https://cqrcengage.com/akc/file/pyogUSNhFCm/ESAs\\_SDs\\_DOT\\_Final.pdf](https://cqrcengage.com/akc/file/pyogUSNhFCm/ESAs_SDs_DOT_Final.pdf)

**The expansion of AKC Reunite's Adopt-a-Cop program, represents a wonderful new opportunity for local clubs to make a real and lasting difference in their community** by helping to fund a police k9. It's easier than ever to participate, and working with law enforcement offers an excellent way to demonstrate clubs' relevance in their communities – especially before legislation is introduced that could harm dog enthusiasts. See more in our blog: - [AKC Reunite Expands Program Partnering with AKC Clubs to Donate K-9s to Local Agencies. Share this Good News with Lawmakers!](#)

**Don't forget – you can advocate for your dogs using your mobile phone!** Legislative alerts are now available via text. AKC GR legislative texts let you send specially tailored messages of support or concern on specific legislative proposals directly to appropriate lawmakers at the state and federal level. If you already receive GR alerts, you can opt-in to receive text messages, by texting **AKCGR** to **50457**. After receiving the confirmation text, you will need to complete the registration by clicking on the provided link and saving your mobile number to your profile in our database. ( More information is [available here](#). )

**Service Dog Pass – Powered by AKC:** The new Service Dog Pass website has gone live as part of a soft launch. The site is located at [www.servicedogpass.org](http://www.servicedogpass.org).

**Detection Dog Task Force:** In lieu of an annual conference, DDTF continues to provide monthly webinars on topics of interest in this area. The next webinar is 6/9/21, “Getting Puppies Started Right for Detection - part 2”. Everyone is welcome to join in and learn about what we are doing in this area. If you would like to receive updates and an invitation about these events, contact [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

In May, two graduates of the Patriotic Puppy program were acquired by law enforcement in Maine. They are completing their specialized training, and we will be reporting on their progress and deployment soon!

We recently held our first-in person training program for Patriotic Puppy Program participants in Durham, NC.