



What's New from AKC Government Relations

Do you know the local dog laws where you live? When a new animal law is proposed in your city or county, would you even be aware that it is happening—and how to take action?

Extremely restrictive local dog laws are being passed every day across the US.

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'Cease and Desist': Local Proactive Actions Are Essential to Saving Your Breeding Program

This is an actual letter recently received by an AKC club member and breeder from their small, rural city's Building Commissioner:

Dear Property Owner/Resident:

It has been brought to my attention...you are operating a business at [this address]. We have seen you advertising your [dogs] for sale on your website and Facebook. This is considered a puppy mill.

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Upcoming DDTF Webinar: Learn About US Police Canine Association and AKC Reunite's Updated Adopt a K-9 Cop Program

Please join the AKC Detection Dog Task Force webinar on July 14, 2021, for updates on AKC Reunite's *Adopt a K-9 Cop* matching grant program and information about the United States Police Canine Association, the nation's oldest and largest police K-9 organization.

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USPCA: American Kennel Club Is Working to Remedy Shortage of Quality US-bred Detection K-9s

Did you know that approximately 80 to 90% of our explosives detection dogs in the US—whether they work in law enforcement, government/military or private security—are sourced from overseas?

Foreign sourcing for K-9s is not secure, because other countries face their own detection needs and security threats. Increasing demand, combined with geopolitical disturbances, terrorism and pandemics further reduce the number of dogs available for U.S. needs. Secure sourcing requires that U.S. must be able to rely on high-quality, American-bred, -raised and -trained dogs to protect our national and public security.

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Healthy Dog Importation Act Is a Solution to Potential Crisis of Unhealthy Canine Imports

The American Kennel Club welcomes the introduction today of the bipartisan [Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2021](#) (HDIA) in the U.S. House of Representatives, and thanks Representatives Kurt Schrader, DVM (D-OR) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD) for their leadership in introducing the measure, as well as Reps. John Garamendi (D-CA) and Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) for their support.

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U.S. Congress: AKC Lauds Introduction of Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2021 to Protect Animal and Public Health

The AKC has been long concerned about the threat of highly contagious and zoonotic diseases such as rabies, canine influenza and distemper, which have been carried into the U.S. by dogs imported without basic veterinary checks or valid health certificates. AKC issued a Memorandum to Congress and press release in conjunction with introduction of the Healthy Dog Importation Act.

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VA Grant Program to Provide Service Dogs for Veterans With PTSD

Many of us say that our dogs are our best friends, but for some people, they're the key to a better life as well. For veterans, service dogs provide more than just emotional support, especially for people dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). That's why U.S. Senator Deborah Fischer introduced a bill to fund service dog programs for veterans diagnosed with PTSD or TBI that can effectively give these veterans a new lease on life.

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Legislative Information and Updates

The US Senate and House of Representatives are both in session, returning from a holiday recess on July 12. Fourteen states are in session or special session.

Linked below are some highlights of pending legislation impacting dog ownership and dog owners' rights. For more information on these issues, and information on how you can get involved, visit the AKC GR Legislative Action Center at www.akcgr.org.

Visit the [2021 Legislation Tracking map](#) 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.

In addition to tracking and responding to legislative proposals, AKC Government Relations addresses dog-related regulatory proposals from the US, federal government, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia. AKC GR's Regulatory Resource Center provides updates on [federal](#) and [state](#) regulatory issues that may impact dog owners.

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.