



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

September marks the beginning of fall, and while summer and many legislative sessions are coming to an end, advocacy never stops. In this newsletter you will learn about the work of two clubs utilizing American Kennel Club (AKC) resources to improve their communities, as well as other programs launched by the Government Relations department.

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Tales from the Trenches: Determined Indiana Club Succeeds in Repealing Local Limit Law

For almost a decade, the Greater Lafayette Kennel Club in Indiana persistently appealed to the Lafayette City Council to repeal the city's three dog ownership limit law. And finally, they have succeeded.

Until this past month, the City of Lafayette had a law on the books that allowed only three dogs and three cats per household – regardless of age, sterilization, or any other factors... and the Greater Lafayette Kennel Club was determined to get rid of it.

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California Declares September as Service Dog Appreciation Month

The California State Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution declaring September as Service Dog Appreciation Month. [HR 63](#), authored by Assemblyman Kelly Seyarto of District 67 (Riverside County) honors service and working dogs, and declares "that Californians are grateful for the service and dedication these loyal companions provide for their owners and communities."

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Fifth Annual Companion Animal Law Writing Contest Launched

The American Kennel Club® (AKC), the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, is pleased to announce the launch of the fifth annual Companion Animal Law Writing Contest.

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South Shore Kennel Club Steps Up for the Community of Braintree, Massachusetts

In June 2021, K-9 Kitt, a 12-year veteran police dog with the Braintree Police Department in Massachusetts, was shot and killed in the line of duty. In response, the South Shore Kennel Club (SSKC), raised funds from club and community members to help the Braintree PD get a new K-9. Their fundraising also resulted in a \$7,500 donation by [AKC Reunite's Adopt a K-9 Cop matching grant program](#).

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Webinar Highlights Essential Qualities at 3 – 6 Months for Future Detection Dogs

In a webinar hosted by the AKC Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF) earlier this week, five industry experts participated in a panel discussion of desired characteristics for 3-6-month-old puppies who are preparing for a career in detection work. The experts agreed that environmental stability, socialization and physical exercise all combined create an independent, resilient future detection dog. During these months it's important for puppy raisers to also realize that sometimes less is more. While it is important to introduce loud noises, siren flashes and other distractions, stimuli should be balanced with calmer "down" time.

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Legislative Information and Updates

The US Senate and House of Representatives are both currently working in their districts. Eleven 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	State	Local	Regulatory
Issues that may affect <i>all</i> dog owners in the U.S.	Issues specific to your state	Issues at the city, county, and metropolitan levels, and in U.S. territories	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.

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