# AKC's Government Relations Department

## *Here to Help You with the Following Services:*

- **Professional staff** with subject matter and regional expertise to address your particular needs.
- **Contact legislators and their staffs** to communicate concerns or express support for pending legislation on the local, state, and federal level.
- **Bill/ordinance analysis** for pending canine legislation.
- **Talking points and materials** for you to conduct your own media and public relations outreach.
- **Providing policy resource materials** to you or directly to legislators, legislators' staff, or other government officials.
- **Keeping AKC clubs and breeders up-to-date** with tools including: an online legislation tracking system; a location-based e-mail alerts system to inform constituents about pending legislation in their state or community and to issue calls for action; and the *Taking Command* e-newsletter, which provides current updates on canine legislation and policy issues around the country.
- **Online Legislative Action Center**, a one-stop resource for materials to assist you in defending your rights as a responsible dog owner (*www.akcgr.org*).
- **Downloadable online presentations** to educate about key canine legislation issues.
- **Presentations to clubs and regional lobby day events** across the country.
- **Model laws**, ideas, and options for effective canine legislation.
- **Keeping federal legislators and their staffs informed** on canine policy issues through the *In Session* newsletter.
- **Recognizing your club's or organization's efforts** with Community Achievement Awards and the Walter Bebout Memorial Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation ("Bebout Award") for exemplary work supporting responsible dog owners in the legislative arena.
- **Recognizing lawmakers and communities who support responsible dog owners and dog ownership** with the Legislator of the Year and AKC Dog Friendly Community awards.
- **AKC Legislative Conference**, a gathering for AKC's grassroots leaders that includes training and networking.
- **Canine Legislative Support Fund Educational Grants**, up to $500 awards to assist with the expenses of developing, administering, and presenting an educational program or event.

## *A Few Words About Strategy:*

Because the fate of many legislative proposals is decided behind the scenes, much of our work is conducted outside the public eye. While it may appear that AKC is not actively involved in the legislative or regulatory process, that is not the case. Many bills can be successfully addressed by full and public support or opposition, but in some cases private negotiation or a degree of compromise may be necessary. Residents who will be affected by legislation are the best judge of what degree of compromise is acceptable. AKC can assist those residents in making that decision, and will support it as long as it is not contrary to AKC's Board-approved Canine Legislation Position Statements.

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