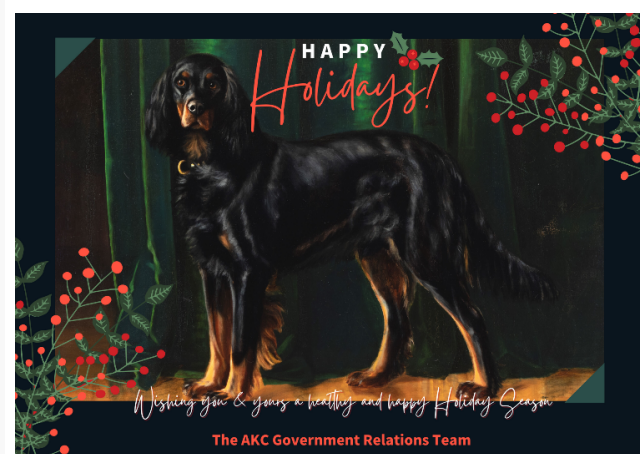




Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

Happy Holidays from the Government Relations team! As we wrap up the year, we want to thank you again for all the energy you have put into making 2021 a great success. While still battling a new pandemic-induced landscape, the GR team continues to work across the United States to fight legislation and equip you to be effective advocates for your dogs.

[Read More](#)



Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover, or Its Name: New Jersey's "Lawyers for Dogs" Bill

Recently, in response to [New Jersey Senate Bill 2868](#) and [Assembly Bill 4533](#), which would create "animal advocates" in cases involving animals, AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) published the alert: "[NJ: Let Speaker Coughlin Know that 'Lawyers for Dogs' Bills Are a Very Bad Idea](#)".

For many, it may sound illogical to think that AKC, the dog's champion – and protector of purebred and purpose-bred dogs, would oppose legislation seeking to add a volunteer to court cases involving animals to ensure that the animal's interests are represented.

[Read More](#)

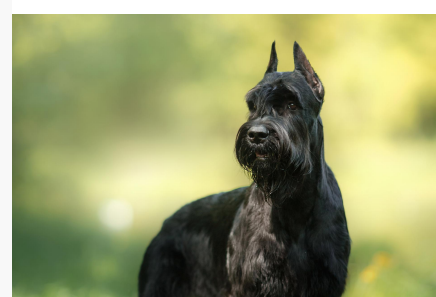


Democracy Works When You Work It!

During the month of November, American citizens pause to honor veterans who have served our country and defended our democracy. Our system isn't perfect, but our experience continues to demonstrate that, thankfully, it will prevail.

Just weeks ago, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) identified a New Hampshire proposal for the 2022 session that would ban the use of canine units in law enforcement. This would result in a significant loss for communities.

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New in the Legislative Action Center: Updated Crop/Dock/Debarb Issue Analysis

Animal rights groups in Oregon [are circulating petitions to put a measure on the 2022 ballot](#) that could, among many other restrictions, criminalize ear cropping, tail docking, and bark softening.

In the summer of 2021, [a resolution was introduced in the California Assembly](#) that, if passed, would have essentially stated the Assembly's opposition to ear cropping, tail docking, and other veterinary procedures.

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AKC-Supported APHIS Rule Requiring Emergency Contingency Planning Finalized

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced the [final adoption of a rule](#), effective January 3, 2022, that requires licensees under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA)—including breeder/dealers, research facilities, intermediate handlers, and carriers—to establish emergency/contingency plans in the event of a natural or manmade disaster or other business interruption.

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Doberman Pinscher Club Hosts Lawmakers at National Specialty, Challenges Parent Clubs to Help Change Breeder Narrative

For the Doberman Pinscher Club of America (DPCA), "preserving and protecting" their breed means more than just words on a web page. In the midst of their 2021 National Specialty, on a Tuesday night following the agility trial and before the Agility Top 20, the club hosted a roundtable to discuss legislative issues and share expertise among club members and with invited lawmakers.

The DPCA not only held this successful networking and outreach event despite the uncertain circumstances of 2021, they're now energized and already planning for "bigger and better" at their 2022 National Specialty.

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AKC DDTF Webinar Series Recap and Recording: Dogs that Work Need Diets that Work

In a recent webinar hosted by the AKC Detection Dog Task Force, Dr. Erin Perry enlightened working dog enthusiasts and professional handlers on the importance of careful diet selection, tactical nutrition and GI health for our valued working dogs.

There is a distinction between companion animals and the dogs that are working daily to secure our nation's security in many different roles. Therefore, she noted, their diet is a significant decision that should be made to maximize health and performance.

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Updates to Canadian Dog Import Laws May Impact U.S. Breeders

The United States isn't the only country reviewing its rules for importing dogs. [Changes in Canadian dog import laws](#) were also implemented earlier this year at the height of the pandemic. Now, as borders open up for travel, some of the changes to Canadian requirements could be a surprise to U.S. breeders who export, co-breed, or co-own dogs with residents of Canada.

Due to concerns about the health of animals being imported into Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), which oversees animal imports into Canada, has updated requirements for importing commercial dogs into the country and clarified requirements for importation of dogs from the U.S.

[Read More](#)



AKC GR Participates in Virginia Association of Counties Conference

Earlier this week, the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) held their 87th Annual Conference in Norfolk, Virginia. For the first time, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in this conference that brings together county leaders from across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In many local jurisdictions across America, the number of dog laws being proposed continues to increase, making it even more important for the AKC and local clubs to become more proactive in education and outreach to local officials. One way to provide this education and outreach is by participating in the annual statewide conferences of counties, cities, and other municipalities.

[Read More](#)

Legislative Information and Updates

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 U.S. 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.

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