



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

Happy New Year! As we move into 2022, we are pausing to [reflect on all that happened in canine legislation in 2021](#) and looking ahead to what that means for purebred dog owners and breeders in 2022.

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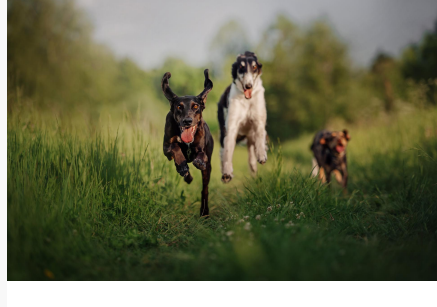


AKC Government Relations 2021 Year in Review

2021 was another busy year for AKC Government Relations (GR). The team monitored approximately 3,000 legislative and regulatory proposals on the federal, state and local levels in all 50 states. This represents a decline in the number of legislative proposals (to approximately 2,400) over last year (which experienced a spike in raw numbers due to COVID-related legislation that could impact dog ownership and events); but a slight increase over 2019, a previous record year.

Although COVID remained a primary focus for many state legislatures, the introduction and advancement of major animal legislation in 2021 demonstrated a continued and significant interest in animal policy among lawmakers.

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AKC Legislative Successes in 2021

With the beginning of a new year, and for many states, new legislative sessions, the American Kennel Club Government Relations (GR) team is pleased to announce [2021 legislative successes](#).

AKC GR monitors more than 2,000 bills each year that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, and related matters. AKC GR counts successes as measures that the team has actively engaged in.

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New Policy Video in the AKC Legislative Action Center: Protecting Due Process Rights for Dog Owners

All dogs deserve a life in a safe, humane environment. Those who mistreat dogs should be held accountable under the law.

Increasingly, AKC Government Relations is seeing legislation that seeks to address this issue by allowing animals to be seized on suspicion of cruelty and then requiring the owner to post a bond or make payments to reimburse the animal shelter for the costs of care during an ongoing trial.

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New Video in the AKC Legislative Action Center : Ann's Story – About the AKC PAC

In 2021, AKC Government Relations tracked some 3,000 bills and regulations on the federal, state, and local levels with the potential to impact dog owners, breeders, and dog sports. Our rights as purebred dog owners continue to be under threat.

One of the most effective ways for AKC club members to help defend their rights is to support the AKC PAC and lawmakers who are willing to protect the rights of responsible dog owners and breeders. Donating to the AKC PAC is a tangible, effective means of ensuring that lawmakers who support purebred dog owners and breeders stay in office and continue to fight on our behalf.

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New Policy Video in the AKC Legislative Action Center: Arbitrary Temperature Requirements Can Harm Dogs

Dogs are the most diverse mammal on earth. This diversity allows certain breeds to thrive in various climates and perform specific tasks and functions.

Yet too often, especially in the winter and summer months, lawmakers seek to pass "one-size-fits-all" proposals to mandate the temperatures in which all dogs – regardless of breed – may be outdoors. While well-intentioned, these arbitrary proposals do not take into account the diversity of breeds and their specific needs and abilities. They can harm some dogs, and undermine best care practices for others.

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AKC GR Provides Expertise to Maryland Pet Sourcing Task Force

Recently, the Maryland Task Force to Study Canine Breeding Facilities and Sourcing Standards released its final report to the Maryland Legislature.

While the report was not perfect, it did contain some important clarifications thanks to the participation of AKC Government Relations (AKC GR).

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Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Comes Together Again for Annual Convention

Annually, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) hosts a convention where more than 1,000 attendees, including local government leaders from across the state and companies providing the best in products and services to towns and cities, gather for two days of informative workshops, interactive discussions, and networking opportunities. Although the COVID-19 pandemic thwarted 2020's conference, CCM returned again this year, bringing attendees together on November 30 and December 1, 2021, at Mohegan Sun Casino.

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AKC PAC Thanks 2021 Donors and Announces Drawing Winners

In the last quarter of 2021, donors to the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) were entered in a drawing, with the grand prize being an Impact Crate. The AKC PAC is pleased to announce the lucky winners.

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Legislative Information and Updates

Linked below are some highlights of pending legislation and 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 [2022 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.

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