



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New from AKC Government Relations

Legislatures are in full swing around the country, and the AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) team is monitoring bills impacting a broad range of issues.

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## In Session Newsletter: Meet Lab Lover, John Katko; plus support dog-friendly bills

Learn more about Congressman and dog-lover John Katko and Henry, his yellow Labrador Retriever.

Plus...  
The American Kennel Club (AKC), our more than 5,000 dog clubs, and millions of responsible dog owners and enthusiasts throughout America, request your support for several bipartisan bills before Congress that promote responsible dog ownership and use proven science to ensure that dogs (and those who love them) can stay safe and healthy.

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## New in the Legislative Action Center: Talking Points on Crop/Dock/Debarking/Dew Claws

In response to a proposed ballot measure in Oregon, a resolution in California, and a recent upswing in proposals to limit the veterinary practices of tail docking, ear cropping and bark softening, AKC Government Relations has updated its resources to help lawmakers better understand humane procedures such as ear cropping, tail docking, dewclaw removal, and bark softening ("debarking").

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## AKC Adopts New Canine Legislation Position Statement on Due Process for Dog Owners

The AKC Board of Directors approved a new AKC canine legislation position statement on [Due Process Protections for Dog Owners](#). The policy statement addresses a growing trend in the introduction of legislation that requires individuals whose animals are seized by law enforcement or animal control or their designee to pay the cost of caring for these animals during pendency of their case or lose their animals to forfeiture regardless of whether the individual is later found not guilty of charges.

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## Norwegian Court Bans Breeding of Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

A district court in Oslo, Norway, composed of a judge and two co-judges (one a veterinarian, the other a geneticist) unanimously concluded that it is contrary to the country's Animal Welfare Act to breed Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and that breeding of both breeds in the country must stop immediately. The case was brought by the Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals against the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK), the Norwegian Cavalier Club, the Norwegian Bulldog Club, and six breeders. It claimed that Bulldogs and Cavaliers have such major health challenges that the further breeding of them is in violation of Section 25 of the Norwegian Animal Welfare Act.

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## AKC Participates in Educational Day at the Capitol in Topeka

Legislatures are in full swing across the country and AKC Government Relations (GR) staff, clubs, breeders, and federations are walking the halls in capitols across the country to advocate on behalf of our dogs, breeding programs, and sport.

AKC GR appreciates the opportunity to join with you and help you and members of allied groups plan or participate in educational or advocacy days at state houses across the country. Educational/advocacy days provide a great opportunity for lawmakers to learn more about the AKC and their own constituent dog enthusiasts and responsible breeders face-to-face, and to discuss dog issues and specific bills of concern to AKC and constituents.

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### 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](http://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 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](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.

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