AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

# Canine Legislation Position Statement

## "GUARDIAN" v. OWNER

The American Kennel Club® supports the use of the term "owner" rather than "guardian" when referring to the keeping of dogs. The AKC® believes that the term guardian may in fact reduce the legal status and value of dogs as property and thereby restrict the rights of owners, veterinarians, and government agencies to protect and care for dogs. It may also subject them to frivolous and expensive litigation.

The term guardian does nothing to promote more responsible treatment of dogs. We strongly support efforts to educate the public about responsible dog ownership to ensure that all dogs receive the care, love, and attention they deserve.