AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Canine Legislation Position Statement

PROTECTIONS FOR PETS UNDER STATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTS

The American Kennel Club® supports additions to states' domestic violence statutes that allow for the issuance of protective orders that seek to guard pets from harm, risk of harm or alienation. Such protections should include prohibiting alleged abusers from contact with pets and permitting grants of temporary exclusive care or control of a pet to a petitioning alleged victim. Statutes may also provide appropriate financial remedies for the petitioner to provide for the care of the animals subject to a protective order. These provisions should not impact the legal status of animals as property.