AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Canine Legislation Position Statement

USE OF WORKING, ASSISTANCE AND SERVICE DOGS

The American Kennel Club® strongly supports the training and use of dogs by humans, whose lives are enriched by dogs' performing essential services. Dogs provide a wide variety of valuable services including: handicapped assistance dogs; drug, bomb, and arson detection dogs; and tracking dogs to locate missing persons and fugitives. The AKC® opposes those who seek to define the assistance and service that dogs provide to humans as exploitative. The AKC encourages the continuation and further development of the use of dogs for these and similar purposes.

The AKC supports the right of persons who require a dog to perform essential services to be permitted to keep a dog without regard to the dog's size, phenotype or breed.