



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New from AKC Government Relations

Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th. In these last days leading up to the election, candidates are vying for your vote. You may receive phone calls, visits from volunteer door knockers, or even a direct appeal from the candidate. As you walk to your polling place for early voting or on Election Day, you may pass dozens of workers with signs, stickers, and hand-outs who seek a last-minute chance to influence your vote. A candidate may introduce him or herself and offer to shake your hand. If they ask for a moment of your time—give it to them.

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## Save the (New) Date – AKC Legislative Conference – January 21-22, 2023

You are invited to join us for a day and a half of learning, networking, and sharing experiences with other legislative liaisons around the nation. Learn from AKC Government Relations and other experts about the latest trends, strategies, and tips for community outreach and legislative success. Learn how you can get involved, improve outcomes and inspire others to join the cause. More information to follow! \*By invitation only

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## AKC GR, Lawmakers Gather At Doberman Pinscher National Specialty

AKC GR's Jacob Hupp recently attended the Doberman Pinscher Club of America's National Specialty in Topeka, KS, to share AKC legislative resources and advocacy initiatives with the club. Hupp gave a presentation to the DPCA on canine legislative trends, effective advocacy and [shared AKC election resources with the club](#). The presentation included spirited discussion and feedback from nearly everyone who attended. Club members were particularly interested in discussing how to share their story with lawmakers and how to be more proactive by getting to know their elected officials and [local candidates running for office](#).

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## Maine Federation Receives Bebout Award for Legislative Leadership

The AKC is pleased to announce that the Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners has been named the winner of the Bebout Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation for the second quarter of 2022. The Bebout award, a memorial to former AKC GR Director Walt Bebout, recognizes contributions made by AKC federations and dog breeder/owner groups in advocating on behalf of responsible dog ownership and the rights of responsible dog owners and breeders in the public policy arena.

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## Introducing a Spanish Language Version of Service, Emotional Support, Therapy Dogs... What's the Difference?

AKC is pleased to introduce a new Spanish language version of our Service, *Emotional Support, Therapy Dogs... What's the Difference?* one-pager. This [translated version](#) follows the newly released English language resource. AKC recognizes the many special and different roles that dogs play in our lives, including the important and differentiated roles that service, emotional support, and therapy dogs provide to humans.

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## New Service, Emotional Support, Therapy Dogs Differences One-Pager for Kids Introduced

Kids are typically curious by nature, especially when they see a dog out in public. However, some dogs may be performing life-saving tasks and shouldn't be approached or distracted; while others may welcome interactions. AKC Government Relations has created a new [one-page](#) resource to help teach kids the differences between service, emotional support, and therapy dogs. Educating about the key differences of those dogs, including differentiating those that should be petted or not, plays a vital role in assuring proper understanding and interaction with assistance dogs in a community setting.

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## Mobile Kennel Club Hosts Program on Canine Legislation

Last week, the Mobile Kennel Club (MKC) hosted guests from the Gulf Coast area for a program on current issues in canine legislation. Representatives of clubs in Florida and Mississippi joined MKC members at their October 5th meeting to discuss how positive and problematic laws can affect dogs, dog owners, and club events. Patty Van Sicklen, Regional Manager-Southeast, American Kennel Club Government Relations, presented an overview of legislative trends.

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## AKC DDTF Webinar "Robustness in Training" – A Discussion with Jay Crafter of Invictus K9

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force is pleased to invite you to join us for a unique discussion with Jay Crafter of [Invictus K9](#). Jay has extensive experience and specializes in training working dogs for conservation efforts in Africa. Jay focuses on building dependability in detection and tracking dogs; which allows for them to be deployed with relatively inexperienced handlers.

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## In the Courts: Will the Supreme Court Rely on a Procedural Issue in Interstate Commerce Case?

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in [National Pork Producers Council v. Ross](#). The Pork Producers and the American Farm Bureau Federation, as petitioners, are challenging the constitutionality of a 2018 voter initiative in California that imposed minimum space requirements for the confinement of breeding pigs that produce uncooked pork products for sale in the state. Defending the law was the State of California and the Humane Society of the United States.

By regulating the pork industry outside of California, the petitioners and critics of the law argue that it violates the doctrine of the dormant commerce clause, which prohibits state legislation that unduly burdens interstate or international commerce. The Biden Administration also opposes the California law, and argued that striking it down would not have a broader ripple effect on other laws.

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### Legislative Information and Updates

Linked below are some highlights of pending legislation impacting dog ownership and dog owners' rights across the country. 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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