



# Taking Command

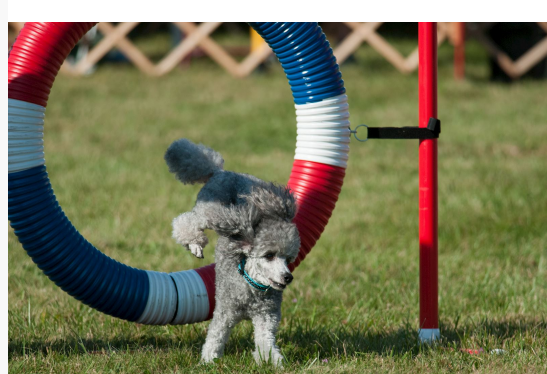
A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New in Government Relations

The weather may be cooling off, but there are several issues on the federal and local levels that are heating up. In a new [op-ed for the DC Journal](#), [American Kennel Club Vice President, Sheila Goffe](#), expresses her deep concern about the removal of funding for breeder education and outreach including "teachable moments" from the FY 2023 House Agriculture Appropriations bill (HR 8294).

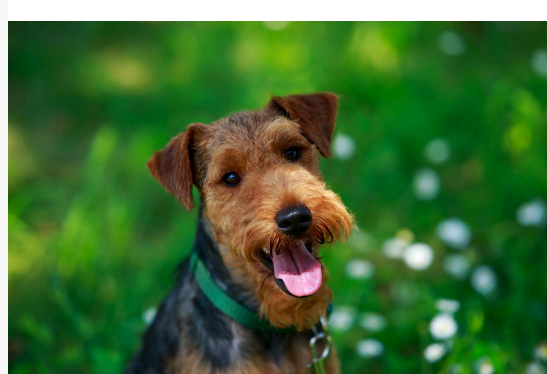
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## Tales From the Trenches: Federation Leader Offers Five Actions to Take Now to Advocate for Dogs

For over 30 years, Karen Strange has advocated for Missouri animal owners. In 1991, after two years of lobbying, she and Anne Edwards founded the Missouri Federation of Animal Owners (MoFed), which is an official AKC federation.

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## Survey Results Reveal Trends, Guide Future AKC Grassroots Outreach

AKC Government Relations (GR) recently surveyed its grassroots contacts to understand how it may better communicate with them about important legislative issues. The survey period started in late September and lasted for two weeks.

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## DC Journal Op Ed: Activists' Attack on Breeder Education, Teachable Moments Undermines Animal Welfare

The war on dog breeding by animal rights advocates is shifting to Capitol Hill, with activists pushing for misguided, overbroad legislation that will pointlessly punish dog breeders while doing nothing to support animal welfare.

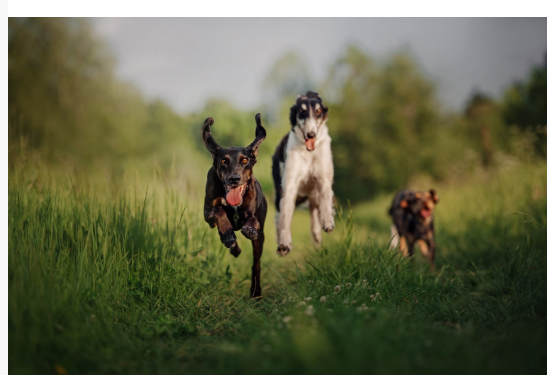
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## GR Presents Seminar on Policy Issues and Advocacy At Great Dane National Specialty

Recently, AKC Government Relation Central States Analyst Jacob Hupp traveled to Norman, Oklahoma, to speak at the Great Dane Club of America national specialty on legislative hot issues and effective advocacy for local clubs.

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## New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung Op-Ed: AKC Supports Pet Choice

Last week, the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung published an op-ed by AKC Government Relations Central States Analyst Jacob Hupp. The article clarified AKC's position on pet choice due to a previous article in the newspaper that inaccurately stated that AKC prohibits clubs from sourcing dogs to pet stores. AKC refuted those claims and explained why we opposed retail pet store bans.

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## GAO Releases Report on Federal Working Dog Health and Welfare

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report on the health and welfare of dogs in federal working dog programs. The report, Working Dogs: Federal Agencies Need to Better Address Health and Welfare, compiled data on the use of working dogs by federal agencies and provided recommendations for improvement.

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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 US, 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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