



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

If you plan to be at the American Kennel Club National Championship, make sure to stop by the AKC Government Relations/PAC Booth to participate in AKC PAC promotions. We're pleased to be bringing acclaimed caricature artist Rafael Diez back to the show this year! For a donation of \$35, you can get a caricature of you and your dog on a special AKC National Championship holiday ornament for a memory that will last for years to come. Caricatures on a custom ornament are a great memento of your participation at the event this year and also make great gifts for the special dog lovers in your life.

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AKC Inspections: A Commitment to Healthy Dogs from Quality Breeders

When meeting with lawmakers, AKC GR and clubs are often asked, "What is AKC doing to help dogs?" Discussing the AKC's Inspections program is an invaluable tool to demonstrate a very tangible way AKC is dedicated to the care of dogs – and that AKC is the foremost experts in dogs and therefore an invaluable resource to lawmakers considering canine policy.

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Op Ed: Too Few Bomb-Sniffing Dogs Bred in US

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security [recently issued](#) a national terrorism advisory, warning of heightened holiday season threats – at the same time as federal agencies are experiencing a shortage of U.S.-bred dogs trained to detect explosives.

The need for these highly-trained frontline dogs is all too real. "Lone offenders and small groups motivated by a range of ideological beliefs and/or personal grievances continue to pose a persistent and lethal threat to the homeland," the advisory says.

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AKC Shares Expertise with Thousands of City Leaders at National Conference

Last week, AKC Government Relations attended the National League of Cities annual summit in Kansas City, Missouri, where thousands of mayors, city councilmembers, and city managers and staff from across the United States met to discuss policy and other solutions for their communities on a broad range of issues.

The American Kennel Club Government Relations booth was staffed by AKC Director of Legislative Outreach Jennifer Clark, and Jacob Hupp, Legislative Analyst/Community Outreach Coordinator for the Central States Region. The booth was extremely popular, with a steady crowd throughout the three days coming to talk to AKC and excited to learn of all the resources AKC offers free to communities to assist them with canine issues and policies.

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AKC Provides Info and Resources at 2022 Kentucky Association of Counties Conference

The American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) hosted an informational booth at the 48th Annual Kentucky Association of Counties (KACo) Conference and Exposition on November 16-17 in Lexington. The event provided opportunities to meet county officials, share AKC's canine policy expertise, and advocate for effective, welfare-based solutions to dog issues.

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AKC Educates Virginia County Leaders at Annual Conference

For the second consecutive year, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in the Virginia Associations of Counties (VACo) Annual Conference as one of the nearly 100 exhibitors. This conference, held in Richmond, brings together more than 300 county elected officials and leaders from across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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Norway Appeals Court Affirms Cavalier Breeding Ban, Reverses on Bulldogs

Last Friday, a Norwegian appeals court rendered judgment in the appeal by the Norwegian Kennel Club (NKK) from a February district court decision that banned the breeding of Bulldogs and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels because doing so was contrary to Norway's Animal Welfare Act.

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Is Scotland's Pet Theft Law Idea Actually an Animal Rights Scheme?

Recently, The Kennel Club (England) (TKC) asked for Scottish dog owners to respond to a consultation launched by [Maurice Golden](#), a member of the Scottish Parliament for North East Scotland, [to support the introduction of a specific criminal offense for dog theft](#). A consultation is an opportunity for the public to comment on an idea prior to the idea becoming a bill filed in Parliament. The proposed *Dog "Abduction" (Scotland) Bill* would create a new statutory offense for dog theft and other situations where a dog is taken or kept without lawful authority.

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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](#).

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](#) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.

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