



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

In May, two major federal issues dominated the canine legislation landscape.

The U.S. House Agriculture Committee unveiled its draft for the [2024 Farm Bill](#), officially titled the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024. This essential legislation reauthorizes U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs for five years and includes significant provisions affecting canine health and welfare. Among the bill's highlights are enhanced protections under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), expanded resources for USDA enforcement, and requirements for timely notification of state and local authorities when dogs are found in unacceptable conditions.

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Understanding CDC's New Rule for Bringing Dogs into the United States

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a [new rule for the importation of dogs into the United States](#). The rule, which becomes effective on August 1, 2024, will require *all dogs* to be at minimum six months of age prior to import into the U.S.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) supports the aims of import regulations that seek to protect pet and public health, including those that seek to protect the United States from reintroduction of DMRVV (canine rabies). However, AKC is disappointed that [the new rule](#) is overly broad and disparately impacts purebred dog enthusiasts who import a personal animal or collaborate internationally, or dog event competitors that travel internationally. AKC will continue to share our concerns with CDC, and encourages those who believe they will be impacted negatively by the rule to share concerns with CDC at cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov.

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AKC Lauds House Farm Bill's Protections for Dogs and Their Owners

The U.S. House Agriculture Committee released its draft language for the 2024 Farm Bill - the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024*. This must-pass bill reauthorizes U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs for five years and typically serves as a vehicle to address federal priorities in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

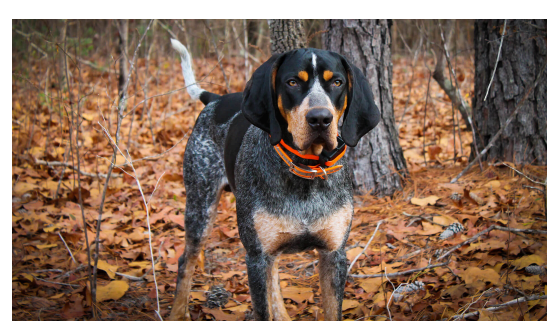
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Meeting Local Officials Where They Meet: AKC GR Attends Annual PA Local Leaders Conference

Recently, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) Annual Conference, the largest gathering of local elected officials in the Commonwealth.

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AKC Co-Hosts Louisiana Sportsmen's Caucus Meeting, Celebrates Use of Sporting Dogs

The American Kennel Club (AKC) co-hosted the annual Louisiana Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus meeting in Baton Rouge on April 23, 2024. Patty Van Sicklen, Southeastern Regional Manager, attended on behalf of AKC Government Relations and spoke about AKC's support for the responsible use of dogs in hunting and field events in the state.

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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 [here](#).

Visit the [2024 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

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.

