

What's New in Government Relations

In May 2023, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) introduced new regulations regarding the importation of dogs and cats, causing considerable concern among breeders and pet owners. The changes, particularly the increase in the minimum import age for puppies, have raised questions about their impact on low-risk imports, especially for those participating in events across the U.S.-Canadian border. The American Kennel Club (AKC) has [provided updates](#) to help dog enthusiasts navigate these changes. The AKC is working alongside the Canadian Kennel Club, sportsmen, other dog enthusiasts and travel industry representatives to voice concerns and request a delay in the rules' implementation.

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CDC Revises Requirements for Importing Dogs Older Than 6 Months from Low-Risk Countries

Yesterday (July 22, 2024), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provided an update related to new CDC requirements effective August 1 for importing or traveling into the United States with a dog older than 6 months of age.

The revisions to the rule no longer require an additional rabies vaccination form certified by a USDA-accredited veterinarian or an official government veterinarian in the exporting country. Instead, for dogs entering the U.S. from low-risk or dog-maintained rabies virus variant (DMRVV)-free countries like Canada, the revised rule simplifies entry by requiring one form—the CDC Dog Import Form—that does not have to be endorsed by a veterinarian. This form requires the dog's microchip number, a picture, and an attestation that the dog has not been in a high-risk country in the past six months.

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CDC's New Dog Import Rule: Mid-July Updates for Dog Enthusiasts

In May, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced [new finalized rules on the importation of Dogs and Cats](#). The new rules have been received with great concern about the impacts they will have on low-risk importations, particularly on fanciers and breeders who regularly cross the U.S.-Canadian border for canine event participation, veterinary care, and breeder collaboration; and on the impact the increase in the minimum age of importation will have on puppies' development. With only two weeks remaining before the new rules go into effect, the American Kennel Club (AKC) provides the following updates for dog enthusiasts who may wish to better understand the rules and potentially express concerns with how the new rule will impact them.

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CDC's New Dog Import Rule: Updates and Information for Dog Enthusiasts

The American Kennel Club Government Relations (AKC GR) staff have met with staff of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as key members of Congress to discuss the CDC's recently [finalized rule on the importation of dogs](#). AKC continues to be concerned with the disproportionate impact the new rule will have on low-risk importations, and shares in the concerns of fanciers and breeders who regularly cross the U.S.-Canadian border for canine event participation, veterinary care, and breeder collaboration. Nevertheless, AKC believes the most efficient means of achieving additional regulatory change is by working with CDC staff to share concerns, keeping members of Congress informed, and helping craft solutions that will address the concerns. AKC extends sincere thanks to CDC and Congressional staff for their time and consideration of these concerns.

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Use AKC's Sample Letter to Contact CDC and Congress About Dog Importation

On August 1, 2024, [new regulations from the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) will go into effect regarding the importation of dogs and cats into the United States.

The new rules have been received with great concern about the impacts they will have on low-risk importations, particularly on fanciers and breeders who regularly cross the U.S.-Canadian border. While the CDC did announce this week [some revisions regarding bringing dogs over 6 months of age into the U.S. from low-risk countries](#), AKC continues to be concerned with the disproportionate impacts the new rule will have on low-risk importations for dogs between 4 and 6 months of age.

[AKC has been working](#) with numerous groups and communicating with the CDC to address concerns. *However, the most important thing that fanciers and breeders can be doing is to contact the CDC and members of Congress to respectfully share your concerns.*

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AKC Lauds Sen Collins' Leadership in Support of U.S.-Canada Dog Enthusiasts

The American Kennel Club (AKC®), a not-for-profit organization, the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, lauds the support and engagement of U.S. Senator Susan Collins of Maine in expressing concerns of dog owners about a new rule from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), set to go into effect August 1, that would prevent personally-owned dogs younger than 6 months of age from entering the United States.

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CDC's Sledgehammer Leaves Some Purebred Dog Fanciers to Navigate Rubble

On May 13, 2024, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published a new rule, changing the requirements for importing a dog into the United States, effective August 1, 2024.1 As news of changes spread throughout the fancy, concerns—and social media misinformation—quickly reached a fever pitch.

This column seeks to provide some background and context that laid the foundation for CDC's new rule, along with the important points you need to know about the new regulations if you travel internationally with dogs or work with breeders in other countries.

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AKC GR Hosts Western Regional Conference in Las Vegas

On June 22, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) brought together two dozen federation leaders and club members from across the Western region to Las Vegas, Nevada, for a regional legislative conference.

Attendees enjoyed networking with other club members and dog enthusiasts in the region and learning about issues impacting dogs, breeders, and events in the Western states.

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Tales from the Trenches: Decades of Advocacy, Persistence Leads to Positive Impact for New York Dog Owners

Recently, the New York General Assembly overwhelmingly approved a bill allowing dogs in state parks, and the measure will soon head to the governor's desk. Although the bill's process this year may have seemed easy, it's actually the culmination of years of dedication and persistence by a group of dog enthusiasts on Long Island who have worked for over 25 years to expand opportunities for dog owners to enjoy outdoor activities with their pets.

The LI Dog Owners Group (LI-Dog) was founded in 1998 by AKC club member Barbara Buscarino after dog owners found themselves being severely restricted and kicked out of local parks and beaches on Long Island for bringing their pets.

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New in the GR Toolbox: Five Things to do this Summer to Protect your Dogs and your Rights

By July of an election year, most state legislatures have adjourned for the year, and lawmakers are now focusing on the campaign trail in preparation for the November elections. This is a perfect time for clubs to highlight their community efforts and to get in touch with lawmakers while they are active in the district.

AKC Government Relations thanks all those who have taken the time to contact their lawmakers on issues impacting dog ownership this year. Your voice is making a difference for dogs. AKC GR is continuing to work hard on your behalf, but it is a team effort, and we need you to continue to be a voice in your state and community.

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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.