



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

While many state legislatures have wrapped up their sessions for the year, troubling developments persist at the federal level regarding responsible dog breeding. [Animal rights extremists continue to push for an expansion of the Justice Department's \(DOJ\) powers to regulate breeders](#) by adding the Better CARE for Animals Act to the Senate version of the Farm Bill. This shift threatens to undermine the U.S.(USDA) Department of Agriculture's long-standing authority and expertise in managing animal welfare. The proposed Better CARE for Animals Act (H.R. 5041 /S. 2555) would empower the DOJ to enforce violations of the Animal Welfare Act independently, potentially allowing for criminal charges against breeders without any prior input or allegations from the USDA.

[READ MORE](#)



Extremists Ramp up Efforts to Criminalize Dog Breeding

Animal rights extremists are aiming for responsible dog breeding by pressing lawmakers to expand the powers of the Justice Department to target breeders.

The legislative assault is focused on the Senate version of the Farm Bill. This once-every-five-years legislation reauthorizes billions of dollars in federal spending and sets priorities for agriculture, nutrition, conservation and forestry policies. More often than not, it's also a legislative vehicle for various special interests.

[READ MORE](#)



2024 AKC National Detection Dog Conference

Explosives detection dogs play a crucial role in U.S. safety and security at home and abroad, but unlike other vital national security tools, the United States is importing approximately 85-90% of its bomb dogs. This deficit leaves the U.S. captive to other countries for a key national security input, and begs the question, "Why aren't we relying on U.S. breeders?"

To continue addressing this question, working dog industry leaders, trainers, government representatives and AKC staff and breeders gathered in Wilmington, Ohio on July 23-25 for the 2024 AKC National Detection Dog Conference. This year's conference featured a balance of presentations from academic research and canine industry leaders that provided something for everyone in attendance.

[READ MORE](#)



Providence County Kennel Club Welcomes State Senator Alana DiMario

On Sunday, July 28, Providence County Kennel Club of Rhode Island welcomed State Senator Alana DiMario and her daughter, Morgan, to its all-breed dog show at the Wide World of Indoor Sports in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Club President and Show Chair, Kristen Burgoyne, personally thanked the senator for her interest in learning about the annual show and discussed the American Kennel Club (AKC), local affiliated dog clubs, dog sporting events, and the shared commitment to preserving purebred dogs.

Neither Senator DiMario nor her daughter had ever attended a dog show and reviewed [AKC's Beginner Guide to Dog Shows](#) in advance. They spoke to numerous dog show participants about breeds' unique characteristics, their commitment to responsible breeding, and their enjoyment of AKC events. They met some winning dogs and sparked a special connection with a West Highland White Terrier named "Benji."

[READ MORE](#)



AKC GR Educates County Officials at the 2024 NACo Annual Conference

The National Association of Counties (NACo) held their 2024 Annual Conference in mid-July at the Tampa Convention Center in Hillsborough County, Florida. Once again, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in this conference which brought together over 3,000 county leaders from across the United States.

Jacob Hupp, AKC Government Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, staffed an AKC Government Relations booth to provide information, education, and resources to conference attendees and other exhibitors.

[READ MORE](#)



AKC Government Relations Attends Tennessee Municipal Conference

The American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) 87th Annual Conference and Expo on July 21-22, 2024, in Knoxville, Tennessee. This year's conference brought together city government leaders for workshops, presentations, and networking.

AKC GR hosted a booth and provided information about AKC, its affiliated organizations, legislative policy positions, and the positive economic impact of AKC events. Patty Van Sicklen, Southeastern Regional Manager, attended on behalf of AKC.

[READ MORE](#)



AKC Participates at American Legislative Exchange Council's Annual Meeting

Last week, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated as an exhibitor at the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) 51st annual meeting in Denver, Colorado.

ALEC brings together state government leaders from across the country, companies providing products and services, and special interest groups for informative workshops, interactive discussions, and networking opportunities. This year's conference hosted more than 1,400 attendees and 44 exhibitors.

[READ MORE](#)

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 that may affect 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.

This email was sent to you from an AKC mailing list. [Unsubscribe here.](#)
© 2024 American Kennel Club | 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178
[About AKC](#) | [Mission Statement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

