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Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

With autumn at our doorstep, attention is turning to the critical elections scheduled for November. While the presidential race and congressional control capture headlines, it's essential for responsible dog owners to recognize the importance of local and state elections on legislation directly affecting them. The American Kennel Club (AKC) has launched a [2024 Election Center](#) to guide clubs, breeders, and exhibitors in supporting dog-friendly candidates and navigating critical issues such as ownership limits, breeding regulations, leash laws, and more.

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AKC GR Launches 2024 Election Center in the AKC Legislative Action Center

As the summer turns to fall, greater attention will be paid to the elections taking place in November. Of course, the races that will garner the most attention are those to see who the next President and which party will control Congress. However, there are countless races at the state and local level that will greatly impact dog owners across the country.

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Detection Dog Shortage Still Devils Security Experts

[The assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump, the broadly elevated terrorism threat](#) in the United States, and now heightened concerns [heading into election season](#) underscore that security at campaign events and government facilities is more important than ever.

Even as these threats mount, federal, state and local agencies continue to experience a shortage of high-quality dogs trained to detect explosives.

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Connecticut School Kids, Governor and Local Club Celebrate New Official State Dog

On Wednesday, September 4, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont welcomed students and staff back to Aiken Elementary School in West Hartford for the new school year with a special treat -- a celebration of the Siberian Husky being named as Connecticut's state dog.

Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners (CFDRDO) President Laurie Maulucci coordinated the event with administrators at her grandchildren's school and invited Siberian Huskies owned by members of the Connecticut Valley Siberian Husky Club (CVSHC) to participate.

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New In Session Newsletter Available!

In Session Summer 2023: Latest AKC Capitol Canine Spotlight, the Farm Bill, and more.

Meet Hank, a Capitol Police K9 who keeps the Nation's Capital safe.

Plus...

On September 17, the American Kennel Club (AKC) will celebrate 140 years of educating about responsible dog ownership, working to advance and protect the purebred dog and improving the health and wellbeing of all dogs.

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Mobile Kennel Club Hosts AKC Government Relations Booth

Dog owners and exhibitors from across the Gulf Coast area learned about current canine legislative issues at an American Kennel Club Government Relations (AKC GR) booth hosted by the Mobile Kennel Club on September 7, 2024.

Patty Van Sicklen, Southeastern Regional Manager for AKC GR provided information on trending bills and ordinances, the positive economic impact of AKC events, and effective advocacy.

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Florida Association of Kennel Club Meeting Focuses on the Future, Youth Education

The Florida Association of Kennel Clubs (FAKC) held its annual meeting on August 10, 2024, in Orlando. During the meeting, speakers from the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the 4-H offered information on legislative trends, the future of purebred dogs, and how to encourage youth participation in dog activities.

FAKC is Florida's federation of dog clubs recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC). AKC Government Relations works with FAKC and other state federations to share information, recommend alternatives to problematic dog measures, support positive canine legislation, and promote public education about responsible dog ownership and care.

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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

State

Local

Issues that may affect all dog owners in the U.S.

Issues specific to your state

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.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

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