



## What's New in Government Relations

As Congress returns for the brief lame-duck session, lawmakers are racing to pass major legislation, including the Farm Bill, before the end of the year. One of the most pressing concerns is the potential inclusion of harmful amendments that would impact responsible dog breeders and the wellbeing of purebred dogs. Animal rights lobbyists are pushing to add provisions from the Puppy Protection Act (HR 1624/S 5072) and the Better CARE for Animals Act (H.R. 5041/Senate Bill 2555) to the Farm Bill, and we need your help to stop these proposals.

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## Tales from the Trenches: Federation Leader Offers Insight and Guidance for Clubs in Response to Ojai, CA, Breeder Restrictions

The following was written by Gail LaBerge, longtime leader in the Georgia Canine Coalition and AKC Delegate for the Atlanta Obedience Club in response to the passage of an ordinance in Ojai, California, [banning the breeding of certain dogs based on perceived health issues](#). She provides the following six guidelines to clubs to encourage proactive involvement in local communities to stop radical proposals from being implemented.

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## AKC Patriotic Puppy Program Graduates Its 100th Detection Dog

The American Kennel Club (AKC®), the world's largest purebred dog registry and a leading advocate for dogs, is pleased to announce that its Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP), has graduated its 100th detection dog, a yellow Labrador Retriever named K9 Teddy.

The AKC Patriotic Puppy Program is part of the AKC's Detection Dog Task Force, a program established by the AKC to help address the critical shortage of high-quality domestically bred, raised and trained explosives detection dogs crucial to the national security.

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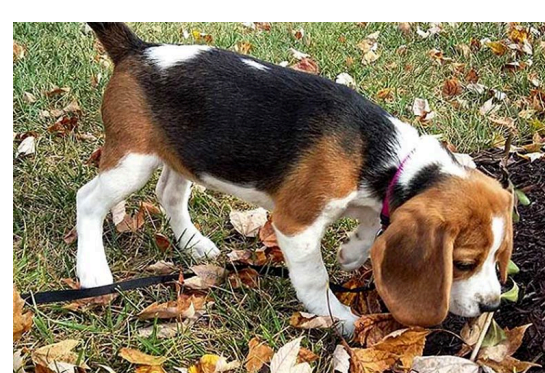
## Torture Breeding: The Dangerous New Threat to Our Breeds

*Originally published in ShowSight Magazine October 2024*

For more than a generation, animal extremists have carried out a systematic campaign against purebred dogs and purebred dog breeding. In the last decade, their radical ideas have increasingly gained a stronger footing in Europe, reinforced with the passage of each new piece of legislation or law that restricts dog breeders and breeding.

Division and apathy among breeders and fanciers—along with a division of labor between the FCI (the show-giving authority) and national kennel clubs (which register dogs)—has contributed to weak resistance and the success of animal rights policy. Today, laws that ban or threaten the future of certain breeds are already firmly in place throughout Europe.

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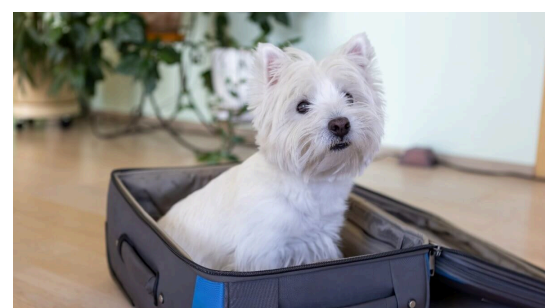


## Penn State Canine Breeder Extension Program Holds Inaugural Symposium

AKC Government Relations recently participated in a Pennsylvania Canine Symposium hosted by the Penn State University. The symposium is part of a new [canine breeder extension program established this year](#) by the University, and led by Abby Hodder, Assistant Clinical Professor of Canine Behavioral Welfare. The program is designed to support professional dog breeders.

This symposium was the first of many outreach events planned by the canine extension office to provide dog breeders with comprehensive education, support, and resources to improve breeding practices and enhance the welfare of dogs, Hodder said. It included presentations on canine health, breeding, socialization, and enrichment, and other topics crucial to successful dog breeding.

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## New Dog Import Rules Are In Effect: Updates, Revisions, and What You Need to Know

*Originally published in ShowSight Magazine August 2024*

In July 2023, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) proposed new rules to address the public health risk of dog-maintained rabies virus variant (aka, canine rabies) associated with the importation of dogs into the US. In addition to issuing multiple calls to action for all dog owners, the American Kennel Club (AKC) submitted a formal comment in September 2023 to CDC, urging it to retain its policy allowing personally-owned dogs that have not spent time in countries classified as high-risk or restricted for canine rabies to be imported into the US younger than six months of age if they met health and vaccination requirements.

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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](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.

