



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

As we look to the future of purebred dogs, we must recognize the growing challenges posed by legislation that could endanger the breeds we love. In recent months, we've witnessed firsthand how local laws and regulations can impact breeders and enthusiasts. From Cathy Pike's experience with the endangered Lagotto Romagnolo breed in Washington, to the legislative victories celebrated by state lawmakers at events like the AKC Meet the Breeds, it's clear that action must be taken at all levels of government to protect our beloved dogs.

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Tales from the Trenches: How Local Legislation is Endangering my Breed

This is a guest article submitted by Cathy Pike, a Lagotto Romagnolo breeder in Washington.

My name is Cathy Pike. This is a story about a small family company trying to save a purebred dog breed. One pup at a time. The breed is the Lagotto Romagnolo and our kennel is Martha Lake Lagotto in Bothell, Washington. We have many world, international, and national champions in our bloodline. We were thrilled to get select bitch at Westminster in 2019.

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AKC Hosts Regional Lawmakers at AKC Meet the Breeds

AKC Government Relations staff welcomed tri-state area (NY, NJ and CT) lawmakers to a record-breaking crowd at the Javits Center in New York City for the annual AKC Meet the Breeds event celebrating purebred dogs.

For over a decade, AKC Meet the Breeds has been a great opportunity for lawmakers to see firsthand the overwhelming crowds who come out to see purebred dogs and to interact with constituent dog owners, enthusiasts, and breeders. This year, over 50 state and local lawmakers signed on as Honorary Chairs for this event, and many came with their families and/or staff to enjoy the event and meet the dogs.

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Celebrating State Dogs Across America: A Tribute to Our Canine Companions

Across the United States, various states have honored specific dog breeds by designating them as their official state dogs. These loyal companions are more than just cute symbols – they represent each state's unique history, culture, and values. Whether it's the hardworking Catahoula Leopard Dog of Louisiana or the fun-loving Boston Terrier of Massachusetts, these state dogs are symbols of pride and heritage. But how did these pups earn such prestigious titles? Below, we explore the state dogs from different states and the legislative efforts that brought them into official recognition.

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AKC GR, Local Clubs, Join PA Lawmakers in Celebrating Purebred Dogs at PA Farm Show

Recently, several thousand attendees, including numerous state legislators, and other dignitaries enjoyed learning that the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg had truly gone to the dogs.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement coordinated with several central Pennsylvania AKC clubs, including the Chambersburg Area Kennel Club, Lebanon Valley Kennel Club, Central Pennsylvania Collie Club, Keystone Retriever Club, Cavalier Fanciers of the Susquehanna Valley to provide opportunities for attendee to meet several different breeds of purebred dogs, ranging from the Great Dane (the state dog of Pennsylvania) to Boston Terriers to Siberian Huskies to the Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, and many more.

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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 [2025 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	Regulatory
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	regulatory issues at the federal, state, and local levels

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.

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