



Taking Command

August 2026

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

August signals the end of summer vacations, and many are escaping the heat by heading to the beach or mountains. Even in state legislatures, many that are still technically in session are on a summer recess. On Capitol Hill, the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee [failed to pass the Farm Bill](#) earlier this month and recessed until September.

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The articles below are a digest of blogs recently published by AKC Government Relations. To view all resources, and for the latest information, please [click here](#).



AKC Government Relations: First 6 Months of 2026 Provide Cautionary Tale for Fanciers and Exhibitors

Even-numbered years are always a busy time for lawmakers. In many states, lawmakers have shorter sessions in which to act on bills and approve a budget before adjourning – and then hitting the campaign trail.

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Register Today: AKC National Legislative Conference 2026

AKC Government Relations is pleased to announce three featured dynamic speakers for the National Legislative Conference being held on September 26, 2026, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

[Register Now!](#)

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AKC GR Out and About

[AKC National Detection Dog Conference Returns to Durham, NC.](#)

[AKC Provides Policy Solutions to State Lawmakers at National Legislative Summit.](#)

[AKC Government Relations Attends 2026 NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans.](#)

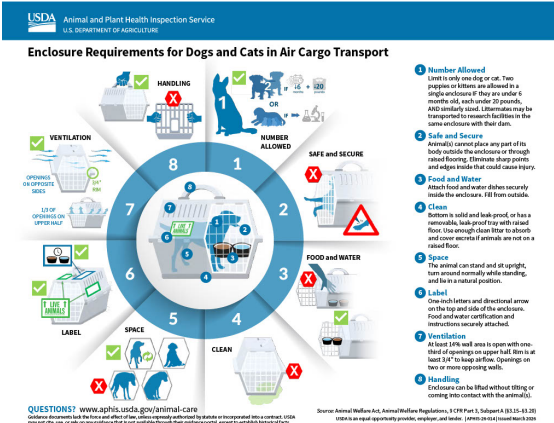
[AKC Connects with Law Enforcement Leaders at National Sheriffs' Association Conference.](#)



AKC Is Seeking Applicants for Appointments to AKC Trial Boards

A Trial Board conducts hearings, hears appeals from Event Committees, conducts investigations, makes findings of fact, and imposes, or recommends to the Board, penalties where it has been determined that the conduct alleged is prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events or the AKC.

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USDA Updates Resource on Enclosure Requirements for Flying Pets in Cargo

You've done the research and deemed flying the best decision for you and your dog. Now onto the next step- figuring out the requirements for their crate. Planning ahead will help manage any stress so that on travel day the experience is a good one for you and your dog.

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Congressional Spotlight: Meet Congressman Gabe Vasquez (NM-2)

The most recent issue of [AKC's In Session policy newsletter](#) features AKC GR's latest spotlight on a dog-loving member of Congress.

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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 [2026 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.



Everything We Do,
We Do for Dogs.



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