



## What's New in Government Relations

September marks the beginning of fall, and while summer and many legislative sessions are coming to an end, advocacy never stops. In this newsletter, you will learn about the work our American Kennel Club Government Relations analysts have been doing throughout the country to help improve our communities.

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## U.S. House Agriculture Chair Declares Support for Responsible Dog Breeders at Annual PA Federation Meeting

Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson, Chair of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, spoke at the recent Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs (PFDC) annual meeting held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, PA.

Congressman Thompson provided an overview of the Farm Bill process and the importance of agricultural and animal husbandry enterprises in the United States. He encouraged the group to work together to offset the lobbying tactics of radical animal rights groups. Following the formal presentation, Charley Hall, AKC Government Relations Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, led a question-and-answer session.

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## Illinois Lawmakers Serve as Honorary Chairs for Inaugural Chicago Meet the Breeds Event

This past weekend, AKC hosted its inaugural Meet the Breeds event in Chicago in conjunction with the International Kennel Club shows.

Over 20 local lawmakers, primarily from the Chicagoland area, served as Honorary Chairs for the event and declared their public support for responsible pet ownership in their communities, with several stating how "honored" they were to lend their names and thanked AKC for hosting this event in Illinois. They were provided with information on AKC's impact in Illinois and encouraged to consider AKC and local clubs as experts when legislation arises in the state

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## AKC GR Recognized for Long Commitment to National Legislative Conference

Recently, AKC Government Relations staff attended and hosted an informational booth at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) annual conference in Indianapolis. While there, NCSL staff recognized AKC for being one of the longest-standing participants of this important conference, having participated for over 20 years.

NCSL is an important annual event that provides an opportunity for AKC GR to interact with and educate thousands of lawmakers and legislative staff from around the country. This year, Government Relations Research and Program Manager Melissa Ferrell and Director of Legislative Outreach Jennifer Clark attended and provided attendees with a wealth of information on the AKC and canine policy.

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## AKC GR Provides Educational, Advocacy Resources at Pennsylvania Breeder Expo

Recently, Charley Hall, AKC Government Relations Mid-Atlantic Region Manager, attended the annual Pennsylvania Animal Welfare & Safety (PAWS) Pet Breeders Expo at the Solanco Fairgrounds in Quarryville, PA.

The event was attended by nearly 2000 people including breeders, prospective breeders, dog owners, and the general public. In addition to general business and dog care vendors, USDA and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law enforcement were on hand to answer questions and provide information to attendees. Hall joined staff from AKC Breeder Relations and Compliance Departments in staffing an educational and information booth to educate attendees about the many resources AKC provides - including the work of the AKC Government Relations Department (AKC GR).

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## Arkansas Kennel Club Hosts Program on Canine Legislation

On August 12, 2023, following Best in Show Judging on the grounds of the Razorback Weekend Dog Show in Little Rock, the Arkansas Kennel Club hosted a dinner seminar on current issues in canine legislation. Patty Van Sicklen, Southeastern Regional Manager for AKC Government Relations (AKC GR), presented an overview of legislative trends and steps for effective advocacy.

So far in 2023, AKC GR has tracked 12 dog-related bills and several other local issues in Arkansas. AKC GR appreciates opportunities to meet with club members and exhibitors throughout the country to discuss and collaborate on legislation that affects dogs. If your club is interested in scheduling a virtual seminar or other AKC GR program, please contact [dglaw@akc.org](mailto:dglaw@akc.org).

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## AKC, Virginia Clubs Represented at County Officials Summit

The American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) recently participated in the Virginia Association of County Officials' Leadership Summit held in Richmond, Virginia. This exclusive event is limited to about 250 elected and appointed county leaders from across the Commonwealth as well as top ranking state officials.

As one of just 15 event sponsors, AKC was well represented and utilized numerous opportunities to discuss canine issues and policies with lawmakers from around the state.

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## AKC Provides Resources at the 2023 Association of Arkansas Counties Conference

The American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) hosted an informational booth at the 55th Annual Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC) Conference on August 9-10 in Rogers, Arkansas. More than 800 elected officials and staff members attended the event.

Patty Van Sicklen, AKC Government Relations Southeastern Regional Manager, provided materials that demonstrate AKC's expertise on dog care and discussed effective, welfare-based solutions to dog issues encountered by county officials.

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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 [2023 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 [dglaw@akc.org](mailto:dglaw@akc.org) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.

