



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New from AKC Government Relations

While some state legislatures are winding down for the year, twenty-seven are still in session, as well as Congress. AKC Government Relations has been very busy on federal issues, including closely monitoring and responding to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS)'s request for public comments on their proposed changes to dog breeder licensing requirements. Comments will now be accepted through Wednesday, June 5, an extension to their previously announced deadline of May 21.

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## Effective Immediately: Importation of Dogs from Egypt to the U.S. Suspended

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has [temporarily suspended the importation of dogs from Egypt](#), effective May 10, 2019. This suspension also applies to dogs originating in Egypt that are imported from or routed through third-party countries if the dogs lived in those countries for less than six months.

This action is in response to multiple incidents of rescue dogs with rabies imported from Egypt and distributed in the U.S. The suspension will continue until veterinary

controls are established in Egypt to prevent the export of rabid dogs

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## USDA APHIS Proposed Rules Comment Period Extended Until June 5

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) has confirmed that the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) has extended the period during which the public may offer comments about [proposed changes to Animal Welfare Act \(AWA\) regulations](#). Comments will now be accepted through Wednesday, June 5, 2019.

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## Viewpoint: Let consumer protection cover pets

Scanning the news from around the country, it's nearly impossible to miss states trying to legislate away freedoms of personal choice and lifestyle. New Yorkers are not immune, with lawmakers in Albany now going after another part of the family – our four-footed ones.

If some lawmakers have their way, average New Yorkers could soon lose the ability to choose a source or breed of their pet.

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## Groomer to Groomer: Working with You to Ensure Laws are Fair and Reasonable

The following article was published in Groomer to Groomer magazine to raise awareness among pet groomers about canine public policy and AKC GR resources available to them.

People value their pets. Understandably, when a pet is injured, well-meaning people want answers and they want assurances that it will never happen again. This can result in the introduction of proposed legislation that may appear to offer solutions, but that can actually result in unintended consequences that do not improve the wellbeing of animals.

You may have heard of “Bijou’s Bill” in New Jersey. Bijou was a six- year-old Shih Tzu who died in the care of his groomer. His tragic story was repeated on social media, in the news, on “Good Morning America” and even on billboards.

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## AKC Participates in North Carolina Sportsmen’s Day at the State Legislature

On May 22, AKC Government Relations joined a dozen other organizations for an event on the grounds of the North Carolina State Legislature to celebrate and promote the preservation of North Carolina’s sporting heritage.

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## AKC Government Relations Celebrates Sporting Dogs at the Alabama Capitol

AKC Government Relations joined sporting, conservation, and wildlife groups in sponsoring the annual Alabama Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus Luncheon, held April 24, 2019 on the capitol lawn in Montgomery, AL. AKC GR Regional Manager Patty Van Sicklen provided educational materials on responsible dog care and children's safety around dogs, and discussed how training for and competing in sporting, working, and competitive events help deepen the bonds between dogs and their owners.

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## Legislative Successes

The AKC Government Relations department recently updated our legislative successes through May 21, 2019. These and other victories have been won in cooperation with AKC federations, clubs, and responsible dog owners and breeders around the country who continue to work tirelessly to promote positive canine legislation in their state and community.

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## Legislative Information and Updates

Twenty-six states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are currently in session.

AKC GR is currently tracking more than 2,000 bills across the United States. For more information on these bills, and information on how you can get involved, visit the AKC GR Legislative Action Center at [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

Visit the [2019 Legislation Tracking page](#) 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. Click on the links below to view highlights of issues that are being tracked by AKC Government Relations:

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.



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