



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

It seems hard to believe that it is almost Thanksgiving. AKC Government Relations continues to be hard at work around the country, but we would be remiss if we did not pause for a moment and thank the federations, legislative liaisons, breeders, and local dog owners around the country who have taken the time this year to speak out on behalf of dogs. Your efforts in the trenches truly makes a difference in the fight to protect the rights of responsible dog owners and the future of our breeds.

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Privacy Concerns Prompt Federal Government Action

On October 24, the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service released a notice of proposed modifications to its Animal Care Inspection Service database, along with a discussion of federal privacy laws governing use of records, and the routine use of existing records.

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Dogs and Temperatures: One-Size Does Not Fit All

Dogs come in all shapes and sizes, with characteristics that make them unique. From furry arctic breeds with dense undercoats to sleek single-coated breeds and even hairless breeds, each breed has certain traits that allow them to thrive in different climates and environments.

For example, sled dog breeds have a unique circulatory system that allows them to conserve heat and energy when outside in cold temperatures. This is in addition to a dense undercoat that acts as insulation. For many of these breeds, a well-adapted circulatory system also protects their paws from frostbite when outside in the winter. In the same way, their thick double coats also act as insulation against heat in the summer to keep them cool.

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What You Need to Know about Dogs and the Weather

Check out this one pager graphic that you can share to educate your community and decision makers about how temperature conditions impact your dog!

[View It Here](#)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DOGS & THE WEATHER

No dog should be left in conditions where its health and safety are in danger. However, dog breeds are very different and individual breeds can thrive in a variety of temperatures. Arbitrary temperature guidelines inadvertently cause harm by legalizing temperatures that a dog may not be able to tolerate based on their characteristics.



There are numerous factors that impact a dog's ability to handle weather extremes. These include: breed, age, nutritional status, health, and coat density.

Normal body temperature will vary according to individual characteristics. Some dogs will begin to show signs of overheating when the air temperature is 81 degrees Fahrenheit, while others can thrive in much higher temps.



Worried about frost bite on a dog's paws? Research shows the circulatory system in dogs' paws may be uniquely adapted to help them tolerate cold better than people.

Responsible dog owners ensure their dogs have basic necessities to handle the conditions. For example, think about adding a water element for your dogs to cool off, such as a wading pool in the play yards. But make sure they have a separate sturdy water bucket or bowl for fresh drinking water. Keep the buckets and bowls under shade to assure that drinking water stays cool.



Many breeds like the Siberian Husky, Keeshond, and Newfoundland have thick coats with a dense undercoat that works to insulate the dog, keeping them warm in the winter and cooler in the summer.

Always be aware of how your dog is reacting to the heat. A dog cools off by panting, which causes evaporation of saliva. If the environmental air is full of water, saliva can't evaporate and cool dogs when they're panting.



AKC Dog Detection Task Force Conference Proceedings – 2019

The American Kennel Club's Board of Directors established the AKC Detection Dog Task Force in 2016. The purpose was to facilitate, educate and network with the stakeholders. Utilizing these tools helps increase the supply of needed explosive detection dogs, by studying the ways to improve their breeding, development, training and evaluation and to bring together those interested in finding solutions to developing a domestic breeding program. The audience who attended this year's conference included federal, state, and city representatives, military and law enforcement officers, academic researchers, trainers, breeders, vendor

managers and writers.

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Philadelphia KC Demonstrates the Value of Good Publicity for Dog Shows

In many households, watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade followed by the Kennel Club of Philadelphia's National Dog Show while making Thanksgiving dinner is a special tradition. Watching beautiful purebred dogs and learning about breed traits provides the opportunity for millions of households to learn about AKC breeds and what makes each unique breed special.

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Get a Custom Caricature of You and Your Dog ... And Support a Great Cause!

Join the fun! Share your drawing and your brag on social media immediately! You receive the original drawing by artist Rafael Diez. Electronic images will be provided to share online later. Drawings will be published in The AKC Gazette & PureDogTalk.com.

Limited spaces are available from 12pm – 5pm on Friday, 12/13 Saturday, 12/14 and Sunday, 12/15. All for a \$50 minimum donation to the AKC PAC or AKC CLSF.

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Legislative Information and Updates

Ten states and the District of Columbia are currently in session. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 2,300 bills on the federal, state, and local levels. 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.

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 for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.



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