Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

What's New from AKC Government Relations

Election Day is right around the corner. On Tuesday, November 8, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives, 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate, 36 governorships, and many other state and local elections will be contested. To preserve the future of purebred dogs, it's important to identify dog-friendly candidates and use your vote to elect those who will protect the rights of responsible dog owners, exhibitors and breeders.

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Save the (New) Date – AKC Legislative Conference – January 21-22, 2023

You are invited to join us for a day and a half of learning, networking, and sharing experiences with other legislative liaisons around the nation.

Learn from AKC Government Relations and other experts about the latest trends, strategies, and tips for community outreach and legislative success. Learn how you can get involved, improve outcomes and inspire others to join the cause. More information to follow! *By invitation only.

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AKC GR Introduces 2022 Election Guidelines for Clubs and Dog Owners

In approximately 2 months, voters across the country will head to the polls to choose national, state, and local officials. These elections can have a significant impact on the rights of hobbyists, fanciers, and purebred dog owners. It is essential for the future of our dogs and our sport that you help ensure that dog-friendly candidates are elected in November.

AKC Government Relations has created a 2022 Election Guide with simple things you and your club can do to make a difference in the upcoming elections – from ensuring all your club members are registered to vote, to identifying the dog-friendly candidates in your area.

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Service, Emotional Support, Therapy Dogs… What's the Difference?

Here at the American Kennel Club, we value all dogs, whether they are purebred or mixed. We recognize the benefits of dog ownership and the way their presence has an impact on daily life. While pets are very important to the vast majority of the population, some individuals rely on their dogs for even more than companionship. AKC Government Relations has created this one-pager that explains the differences in service, emotional support, and therapy dogs.

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New in the GR Toolbox: Updated Canine Legislation Candidate Survey

With election day right around the corner, now is the time to find out where the candidates stand on important canine legislative issues. To help, AKC GR has updated the Canine Legislation Candidate Survey.

This useful tool can help you quickly identify candidates who are friendly and committed to protecting the rights of responsible dog owners and breeders as well as the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. From dog shows to field trials, to agility, hunting, training, breeding, and even grooming, animal extremists are increasingly pushing anti-dog owner legislation at the federal, state, and even the local level by either outlawing, or limiting our ability to continue to enjoy and hold events or raise the dogs we love.

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Detection Dog Task Force Hosts 3rd AKC National Detection Dog Conference

After a two-year pandemic-related hiatus, the AKC Detection Dog Task Force resumed the AKC National Detection Dog Conference last week in Durham, NC.

The two-day event was attended by more than a hundred terrorism experts, law enforcement officials, U.S. military officials and dog breeders committed to addressing the grave shortage of high-quality explosives detection dogs.

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In the Courts: Yet Another Court Hands Incessant AR Group Another Defeat

An Oregon appeals court has handed down yet another rejection of an animal rights group's effort to have animals recognized as legal persons. Background: Five years ago, a horse in Oregon named "Shadow" was seized from his owner's care due to neglect and given to a new caretaker. After pleading guilty to first degree animal neglect, the former owner was ordered to pay for the cost of the horse's care.

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AKC's Florida Federation of Dog Clubs Charges Forward with 2023 Initiatives

The Florida Association of Kennel Clubs (FAKC) welcomed six new member clubs and planned 2023 advocacy initiatives during their annual meeting, held August 20, 2022. Delegates from across the state gathered in Orlando, while others attended remotely.

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AKC GR Provides Outreach to Breeders at Pennsylvania Animal Welfare and Safety (PAWS) Pet Breeder's Expo

Recently, AKC Government Relations Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator Charley Hall attended the annual Pennsylvania Animal Welfare & Safety (PAWS) Pet Breeder's Expo in Lancaster County, PA. Over 1300 people attended the event, which brought together breeders, prospective breeders, dog owners, more than 70 vendors and the general public. 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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Pennsylvania Lawmakers, Federation Leaders and AKC Urge Unity at Annual Federation Meeting

The Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs (PFDC) recently held their annual meeting in New Holland, Pennsylvania. Instead of a typical meeting held in a restaurant or hotel conference room, this year the federation decided to try something different and held the meeting "down on the farm" in Lancaster County, PA. The day started with a tour of three kennels where attendees were shown what best practices each has implemented to maintain compliance with the licensing requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement (BDLE) and the USDA.

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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 at www.akcgr.org.

Visit the 2022 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 US. 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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