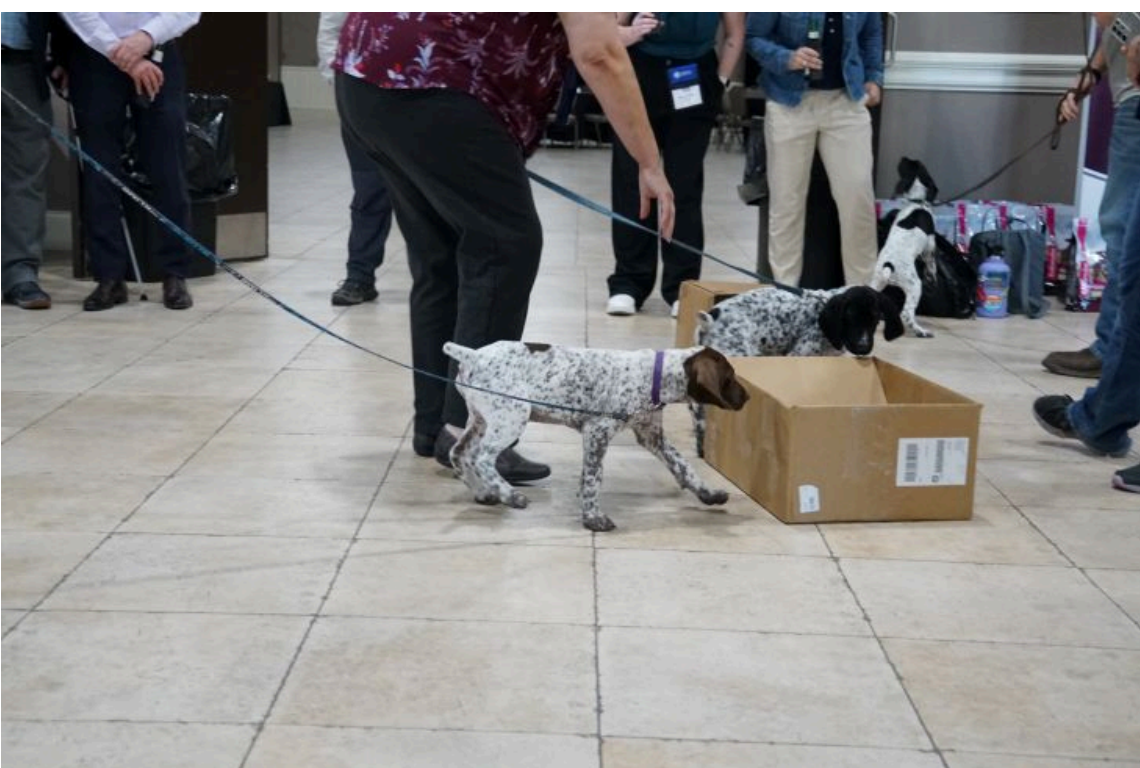


August 2024

It has been a very busy summer for the AKC Detection Dog Task Force! The 2024 National Conference was held July 23 – 25 in Wilmington, Ohio and included 22 speakers that operate on the cutting edge of canine detection research, training, breeding and handling. We looked at the crucial role of working dogs in protecting public safety; current trends and context; and explored opportunities for breeders, researchers, industry leaders, and trainers to work together to address the shortage of U.S. bred detection canines and to improve future operations. This edition of AKC's *Detection Dog Bulletin* offers a full account of the conference, including many pictures.

On May 1st Christopher Sweetwood, AKC Board, AKC Detection Dog Task Force Co-Chair and Sheila Goffe, Vice President of AKC Government Relations were in Washington D.C. to honor the U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) K-9 Unit with the AKC Canine Officer Program Award. "The duties performed by the USCP K-9 Unit are vital to the safety of our nation, and we are extremely proud that five AKC Patriotic Puppy graduates are serving in the USCP! We are thrilled to honor these highly trained detection dogs and their handlers."

The AKC Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP) will be hosting an in-person seminar in Cedar Rapids, IA for PPP approved participants this September! [Click here to learn more](#). Keep a look out for where we will be next!



2024 AKC National Detection Dog Conference

Explosives detection dogs play a crucial role in U.S. safety and security at home and abroad, but unlike other vital national security tools, the United States is importing approximately 85-90% of its bomb dogs. This deficit leaves the U.S. captive to other countries for a key national security input, and begs the question, "Why aren't we relying on U.S. breeders?"

To continue addressing this question, working dog industry leaders, trainers, government representatives and AKC staff and breeders gathered in Wilmington, Ohio on July 23-25 for the 2024 AKC National Detection Dog Conference. This year's conference featured a balance of presentations from academic research and canine industry leaders that provided something for everyone in attendance.

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American Kennel Club Honors U.S. Capitol Police K-9 Unit With AKC Canine Officer Program Award

The AKC Canine Officer program was designed to recognize the extraordinary work that dogs in a public service role for government agencies perform on daily basis to keep our nation safe. The AKC is proud to acknowledge the skill and dedication of these dedicated four-legged officers and their handlers.

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Meet the Beagle Brigade, USDA's Detector Dogs

Those adorable [Beagles](#) you see at major airports throughout the United States aren't there to provide cuddles or comfort. They're part of the Beagle Brigade, a team of hard-working dogs employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to sniff out plants and animals that have the potential to carry harmful diseases onto U.S. soil. Learn more about the Beagle Brigade and how these pups are instrumental in keeping pestilence at bay.

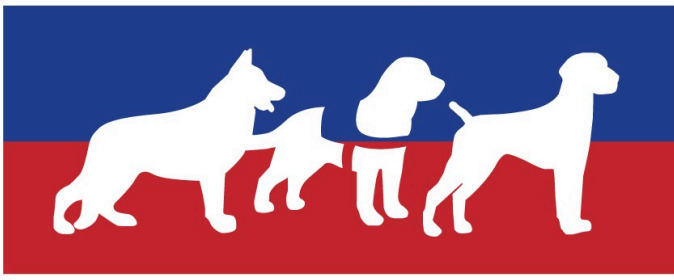
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Did You Know?

U.S. Congress – [HR 8467](#), The House version of the Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2024, also known as the "Farm Bill", provides the quinquennial (once every 5 years) reauthorization for USDA funding. This massive, must-pass legislation commonly serves as a vehicle for a variety of animal and breeder related bills. This measure was approved in markup on May 23, and contained a number of programs/measures AKC has been advocating for, including import requirements from the Healthy Dog Importation Act, statutory funding for the National Detector Dog Training Center, funding for domestic violence shelters that allow victims to shelter with their pets, and more. AKC is also pleased that this version, as approved by the H. Agriculture Committee, did not contain problematic legislation opposed by AKC. The bill now goes to the House floor for consideration.

HR 1480/S 759, known as the Beagle Brigade Act, provides statutory authority for the National Detector Dog Training Center operated by USDA APHIS. The center trains dogs to inspect passenger baggage, cargo, mailed packages, and vehicles to detect foreign pests and diseases that threaten domestic agriculture and natural resources. HR 1480 passed the House in 2023; and language to advance the measure was included in the House version of the 2024 Farm Bill, HR 8467. The Senate companion measure is awaiting committee action. AKC strongly supports this goal.

AKC® Detection Dog Task Force



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