



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New in Government Relations

The bills for this year's legislative session continue to come in fast and furious. At the state level, we are seeing an abundance of 'bond for care' bills, breeder regulation bills, and retail pet sales bans, among other topics. On the federal level, we've seen the reintroduction of the highly problematic Puppy Protection Act (PPA), and the positive Healthy Dog Importation Act (HDIA), and many other important bills.

[READ MORE](#)



## Bond for Care? Animal Forfeiture? Due Process? What does it all mean?

Over the past few weeks, the American Kennel Club Government Relations department has been handling a large number of due process-related legislation. Whether it is called 'Bond for Care,' 'Animal Forfeiture,' 'Cost for Care,' or 'Due Process infringement,' it often means that if your animals are seized, you could potentially lose ownership of your animals without being convicted or if the charges are eventually dropped.

[READ MORE](#)



## USDA Breeder Licensing: Why 'Teachable Moments' Matter

The FY 2023 Agriculture Appropriations bill passed and signed into law at the end of 2023 contained language that prohibited the use of "teachable moments" by USDA Animal Care inspectors at dog kennels. The article below, first published in Showsight Magazine, provides insight into the value of this lost educational bridge with USDA -- a tool that not only helped improve breeder education and outcomes, but also helped improve animal welfare by addressing minor issues before they could deteriorate into serious non-compliances.

[READ MORE](#)

## 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](http://www.akcgr.org)

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 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

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

### Regulatory

Regulatory issues at the federal, state, and local levels

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.

## FOLLOW US



This email was sent to [emily.holmes@akc.org](mailto:emily.holmes@akc.org) from an AKC mailing list. [Unsubscribe.](#)