



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New in Government Relations

Despite an extremely busy beginning of the year, the American Kennel Club Government Relations team, and you as dog lovers, have a lot of successes to celebrate. Some recent successes include:

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## Proposal Would Undermine Animal Welfare

The French bulldog recently toppled the mighty Labrador retriever as the most popular dog breed in the United States. One huge irony about the ascendance of a new top dog is that misguided animal activists are hard at work trying to shut down responsible dog breeders so that the inevitable result will be more unhealthy dogs imported from countries that lack the welfare standards required of U.S. breeders.

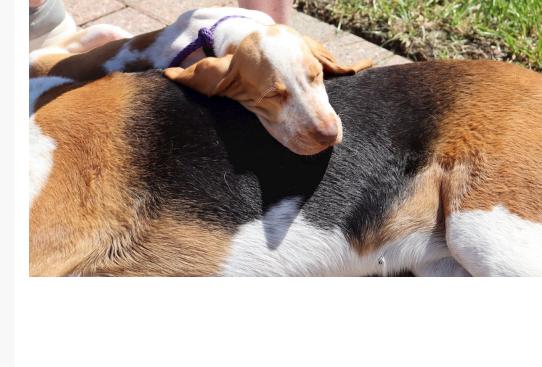
At issue is a proposal recently re-introduced in the House of Representatives called the Puppy Protection Act, one of those fundamentally misnamed bills. It creates additional one-size-fits-all requirements for dog breeding, despite dogs being the most diverse species of land mammal and anything but one size fits all.

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## An Ounce of Prevention... Knowing Interstate Documentation Requirements Helps Owners Avoid Enforcement Troubles

For owners and handlers, the to-do list before traveling to events is always long: getting the dogs bathed and groomed, preparing the vehicle, packing equipment for the dogs, packing clothes for us...the list goes on. Getting the list completed is usually exhausting, and that's before hitting the road.

When our travels take us across state lines, there's something else that must be checked off the list: Ensuring our dogs meet the veterinary care requirements of the states we're traveling to. There is a lot of variation among states' requirements; and while ensuring that our dogs meet our destination state's requirements can be time consuming and costly, there's tremendous upside in being able to substantiate our dogs' health and vaccination status. Moreover, failing to provide evidence requirements are met can bring about more serious consequences, including removal from event sites, confiscation and quarantine, and fines.

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## The Dogs are Back: AKC Canines at the Capitol Event Returns to Raleigh!

At the conclusion of a very long and grueling week for legislators and their staff, over a dozen furry friends were on the lawn of the North Carolina General Assembly to offer a little relief from the stress of budget season.

After a three-year hiatus, AKC's Canines at the Capital event was back in Raleigh, North Carolina to promote responsible dog ownership and showcase a variety of dogs, including several rare breeds, that are being raised in the state.

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## Law Enforcement K9s: The Crucial Value of Proper Training and Certification

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force was pleased to host Don Slavik, Executive Director of the [United States Police Canine Association](#), in a recent webinar discussion on the value of Police K9s as a positive law enforcement tool for public safety in our communities, states and nation.

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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 [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.

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