



What's New in Government

Relations This July, federal policy has been heating up. AKC Government Relations has been working to educate Congress on the many problems and concerns with two bills that could negatively

impact dogs and responsible breeders.

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In Session Summer 2023: **Latest AKC Capitol Canine** Spotlight, Supporting the

Animal Welfare Act, and More Meet Rep. Kat Cammack's other support team... Whether being entertained by two office dogs or taking care of her feathery friends at home in Florida, Rep. Cammack loves to be

surrounded by animals.

Plus, the American Kennel Club recently joined other animal welfare leaders in providing congressional staff who handle agriculture issues with an educational overview of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), its current requirements and recent regulatory updates. AKC and other leaders support strong enforcement of the AWA and the flexibility it currently provides to licensees that allow for a variety of thoughtful approaches by experts to optimize care and outcomes. AKC believes that proper care for animals must always be the priority. We share concerns with other animal experts about proposed one-size fits all legislation that sounds benign but could undermine proper enforcement

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and appropriate animal care.



New in the GR Toolbox: **Understanding the Facts of**

Dog Breeding Laws Laws governing dog ownership and breeding should be reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory. Stakeholders with experience in animal husbandry, including representatives from some of the 5000 AKC clubs around the country, should be consulted

during the legislative process. AKC believes appropriate care that considers the purpose, characteristics and needs of the animal should always be the priority. By contrast, animal protection organizations that seek to limit pet breeding typically have little scientific knowledge, practical knowledge or experience with animal

husbandry. **READ MORE**



AKC GR Reflects on Legislative Trends for the First 6 months of 2023

The AKC Government Relations department has been busy over the last six months. The year started with excitement – and some confusion – as lawmakers, newly elected in 2022 were sworn in at the federal, state, and local levels.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, more than 1,500 new legislators were elected in 2022. In addition, four legislatures saw changes in party leadership, and 5 gained seats creating veto-proof majorities. These changes, plus a decrease in legislation addressing COVID, resulted in a slight decrease - but still not insignificant number of bills the GR team monitored (over 1,400 bills and 860 regulations across the first six months of the year). However, this year has seen a number of new legislators - and new bills and issues – requiring education by AKC GR and our federations and clubs.

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AKC Provides Briefing to Congressional Staff on AWA Requirements for Dog

Breeders

On Tuesday, June 20, the American Kennel Club (AKC) presented an educational briefing to Congressional staff on the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), its current requirements, and

impact on dog ownership. AKC, represented by Vice President, Government Relations, Sheila Goffe, was joined Dr. Cia Johnson from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Dr. B. Taylor Bennet of the National Association for Biomedical Research, and Tom Albert of the Zoological Association of America. Each group outlined a different aspect of the AWA, focusing on their area of expertise and the experience of the regulated community.

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Club Members: Turn Your Expertise into Power with These Tips

There are nearly 5000 American Kennel Club (AKC)-affiliated dog clubs in the United States that hold AKC-sanctioned competitions for AKC-registered dogs. There are national breed "parent" clubs, local specialty clubs, and local all-breed clubs. Still others are devoted to a broad variety of specific activities and events, from agility to obedience and tracking, from field trials to lure coursing and hunting and herding tests.

No matter the type, all clubs share a common background: They are all comprised of a diverse group of dog lovers who share the common interest of raising, training, breeding, and competing with purebred dogs. As the dog subject matter experts in their communities, club members are best positioned to influence elected officials on dog-related legislation and laws.

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Showing Your Dog or Hosting a

Summertime is a popular time for travel - and this is especially true for those



Dog Show in the Coming Months? Be Sure to Check **State Import Laws**

participating in dog events. When you're preparing to travel, you have your list of things to pack and remember: completing entries, booking accommodations, packing all the gear you need for you and your dog, etc. But there's one item that's especially important to add to your list if you are travelling out of state - Check the state laws for bringing a dog into another state.

Even if you have been to that state many times before, or you're only travelling one state over, it's a good idea to check and make sure you are in complete compliance with their laws and regulations.

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Detection Dog Bulletin - June 2023 Summer is here and the AKC Detection

Dog Bulletin is out and has exciting news to share! The first hands-on training seminar for Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP) participants is scheduled for July at K2 Solutions, Inc. in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Similar events are being planned for later this year and 2024. AKC's Marketplace is expanding its footprint to include our participants' pups/dogs for potential sales to local, state and federal agencies.

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DDTF Webinar: Working Dog



Veterinary Care, Your K9 Athlete's Health The AKC Detection Dog Task Force was

pleased to welcome Cynthia Otto, DVM, PhD, Executive Director of the Penn Vet Working Dog Center at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine on June 22nd for a discussion on working dog veterinary care, the risks involved and health care resources for handlers and their K9s.

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AKC Goes Local... and So Should You For the second year, the American

Department (AKC GR) participated in the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Annual Conferences. AKC GR had informational booths at

Kennel Club Government Relations

both events featuring materials demonstrating AKC as the recognized expert in promoting responsible dog ownership, training, and breeding, as well as resources sharing information about affiliated clubs and charities. **READ MORE**

Eyes on the Courts: AKC,



Others Submit Depublication Request to California Supreme Court

The American Kennel Club (AKC) has

long been a leader in ensuring the traditional legal classification of animals as property is preserved, including ensuring that laws do not allow for emotion-based (aka "non-economic") damages in cases involving the negligent injury to a pet. **READ MORE**

Legislative Information and Updates

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 <u>2023 Legislation Tracking map</u> for the most up-to-date information on

state and federal legislation. This site, updated each weekday, provides the latest

Linked below are some highlights of pending legislation impacting dog ownership

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 <u>federal</u> and <u>state</u> regulatory issues that may impact dog owners. Local

Federal

State

Regulatory Regulatory issues

Issues that may Issues specific to affect all dog

Issues at the city,

at the federal, state, and local levels

your state county, and owners in the U.S. metropolitan levels, and in U.S. territories

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

Please contact AKC GR at (919) 816-3720 or doglaw@akc.org for more information

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