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## Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



### What's New in Government Relations

This summer has been hitting record breaking temperatures, and while you are looking for ways to cool off, it's also important to remember your furry friends.

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### Three States Pass Laws to Address Breed Discrimination in Insurance

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) often hears from dog owners who struggle to find homeowner's insurance coverage because of the breed of dog they choose to own.

AKC [opposes all efforts](#) by insurance companies to determine coverage based on a dog's breed or appearance, rather than actual deeds. If a dog is a well-behaved member of the household and the community, there is no reason to deny or cancel coverage. It harms responsible owners and does not address the issue of truly dangerous dogs.

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### British Veterinary Practitioners Issue Letter on Risks of Spay/Neuter

"Numerous peer-reviewed research papers now describe how routine neutering of dogs has been linked to increased incidence of health problems such as cruciate ligament rupture, hip dysplasia, osteoarthritis, hypothyroidism and many cancers (including haemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumours, lymphosarcoma, osteosarcoma, transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder), and the assertion that gonadectomized dogs live longer has largely been discredited."

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### American Kennel Club Presents Legislator of the Year Award to Nevada State Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy

AKC Government Relations (GR) Western States Coordinator Bob Rilling-Smith presented Assemblywoman Melissa Hardy of Nevada with the AKC Legislator of the Year Award on Saturday, August 5, 2023, in Las Vegas, NV, at the Silver State Kennel Club's August meeting.

During the meeting, Assemblywoman Hardy met with members of the Silver State Kennel Club to discuss canine-related legislation and issues affecting dog owners in Nevada.

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### AKC Exhibits at American Legislative Exchange Council's 50th Annual Meeting

Last week, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) 50th annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

ALEC is America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets, and federalism; and brings together government leaders from across the country, companies providing products and services, and special interest groups for informative workshops, interactive discussions, and networking opportunities.

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### AKC GR Meets With, Educates County Leaders at the NACo Annual Conference

The National Association of Counties (NACo) held their 2023 Annual Conference in late July at the Austin Convention Center in Travis County, Texas. Once again, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in this conference which brings together county leaders from across the United States.

Charley Hall, AKC Government Relations Regional Manager, staffed an AKC Government Relations booth to provide information, education, and resources to conference attendees and other exhibitors. This year's event hosted more than 1,700 county leaders from 47 states, including nearly 600 first-time attendees.

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### New in the GR Toolbox: What You Need to Know About Dogs & the Weather

This summer has been hitting record breaking temperatures, and while you are looking for ways to cool off, it's also important to remember your furry friends.

In response to some tragic situations, some lawmakers have sought to enact laws aimed at protecting dogs when they are outside in extreme weather. Many of these proposals unfortunately include a one-size fits all approach that does not address all dogs and situations. To help dog owners communicate the many concerns and problems that arise with a one-size fits all approach, AKC GR has [updated a one-page, printable handout](#) with talking points for legislators and posted it in the AKC Legislative Action Center Toolbox.

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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](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

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](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

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