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## Taking Command

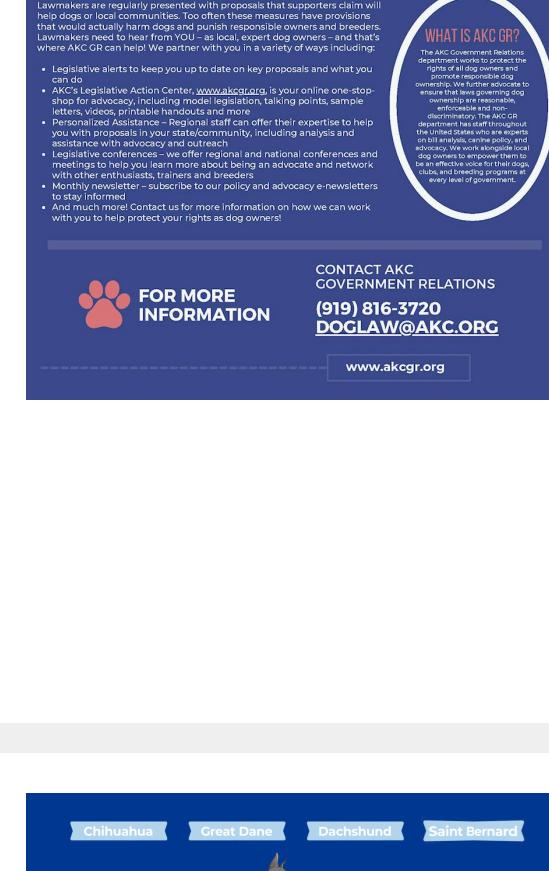
A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



### What's New in Government Relations

The holidays are just around the corner, and if you are going to be at the AKC National Championship in Orlando this year, we have just the gift for you! For a donation of \$35 to the AKC PAC, you can get a custom drawn caricature of you and your dog on a special holiday ornament. Sittings are available on December 15-17 at the AKC GR/PAC booth at the AKC National Championship, or you can pre-order an ornament until November 30th.

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### New in the GR Toolbox:

#### Introduction to GR Handout

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) works across the country to protect the rights of dog owners, breeders, sportsmen, hobbyists, and exhibitors – and we want to spread the word that we are here as a partner in protecting your rights as dog owners. Our newest fact sheet provides an overview of AKC GR and highlights the many tools and resources we offer to help clubs and breeders advocate for your dogs – from our monthly newsletters, to legislative alerts, to personalized assistance from regional staff throughout the United States.

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### New in the GR Toolbox:

#### Animated Video Shows the Problem With "One-Size-Fits-All" Dog Legislation

Every dog is unique, and so are their needs when it comes to ensuring their health and wellbeing.

Over the past several years, AKC Government Relations has tracked an increasing number of overly-burdensome proposals to establish one-size-fits-all mandates for dogs. Such laws can fail to recognize the broad diversity of canine care needs and the value of flexibility in considering breed, age, lifestyle or individual situations to achieve best outcomes for dogs in a regulated situation.

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The AKC PAC is pleased to be bringing acclaimed caricature artist Rafael Diez back to the show this year! For a

donation of \$35 to the AKC PAC, you

can sit for a caricature of you and your

dog on a special AKC National

Championship holiday ornament. If you

prefer, you can pre-order an ornament

until November 30, for pick up at the

show. Your donation and the ornament

are a visible sign of your commitment to

protecting the future of purebred dogs

and offer a memory that will last for

years to come. Caricatures on a custom

ornament are a great memento of your

participation at the event this year and

make great gifts for the special dog

lovers in your life! Consider a \$100

donation for three ornaments to share

with the special dog lovers in your life.

Sittings with the artist fill up quickly. To

reserve a 10-minute sitting ahead of

time, please contact Katie Phipps at

[KG@akc.org](mailto:KG@akc.org).

Caricatures will be available at the AKC

GR/PAC booth at the Orange County

Convention Center on:

**Friday, December 15:**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, December 16:**

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 17:**

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**PRE-ORDERS:** We have limited space

for preorders as well. If you're

interested in supplying a picture before

the event and picking up your ornament

at the show, please contact

[akcpac@akc.org](mailto:akcpac@akc.org) for more details.



### AKC GR New England Conference Emphasizes Regional, National Advocacy for Dogs

On November 4, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) brought together two dozen federation leaders and club members from across New England to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for a regional legislative conference.

Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President,

Government Relations opened the

event with a welcome and update on

policy trends around the country,

including federal canine legislation, and

an overview of government relations

advocacy tools. Stacey Ober, New

England Regional Manager for AKC GR,

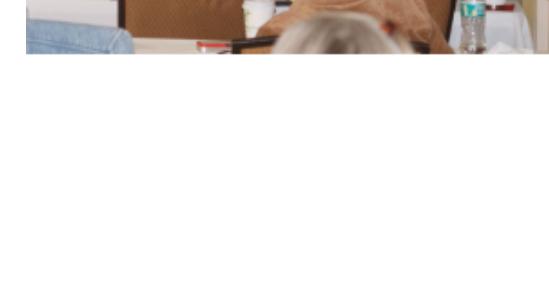
followed with a presentation that

included regional updates and

strategies for establishing personal

relationships with lawmakers.

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### American Kennel Club Presents New Hampshire Senator Howard Pearl With 2023 AKC Legislator of The Year Award

Earlier this month, the American Kennel Club® (AKC) presented New Hampshire Senator Howard Pearl with the 2023 AKC Legislator of the Year award in recognition of his advocacy for fair and balanced legislation for responsible dog owners.

The award was presented by Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President of Government Relations (GR), noting Pearl "has done more for responsible dog owners than any other elected official in New Hampshire over the past four years."

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### AKC Detection Dog Task Force Hosts Webinar: "Ways to Improve Training Efficiency"

In an October 23 webinar, the AKC Detection Dog Task Force hosted Tim Baird, owner of the 5B Kennel in Piedmont, AL, and Stacey West, AKC Patriotic Puppy Program Manager for a practical discussion on ways to create efficiency in daily training routines.

The pros agreed that careful planning in the areas of transportation, how training data is recorded and analyzed and veterinary care, each play an important role in improving efficiency and keeping you on track for successful training outcomes.

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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 U.S. 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

[READ MORE](#)

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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