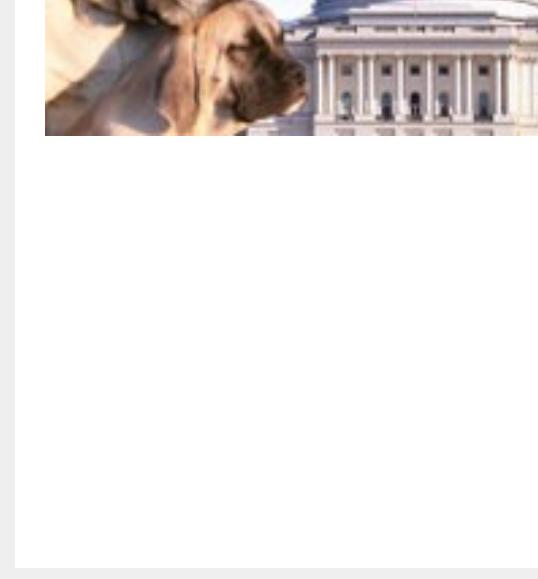




If this e-mail is not displayed properly, click [here](#).

## Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



### What's New in Government Relations

As we close in on the end of the year, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) extends our sincerest thanks for all the hard work you demonstrated this past year to protect the dogs we all love so much. We could not do what we do without you showing up at hearings, sending emails, making phone calls, and sharing with your club members and friends.

[READ MORE](#)



### War on Dog Breeding Punishes Responsible Breeders

Responsible dog breeding is under attack with efforts at the federal and state levels to limit or end breeding.

At the federal level, one proposal would prohibit the breeding of female dogs unless approved for breeding by a veterinarian, with no specific details on what the screening would involve or who would make these decisions. At the state and local level, no fewer than 80 measures seek to curtail skilled breeders who supply dogs as pets or to law enforcement as working dogs.

[READ MORE](#)

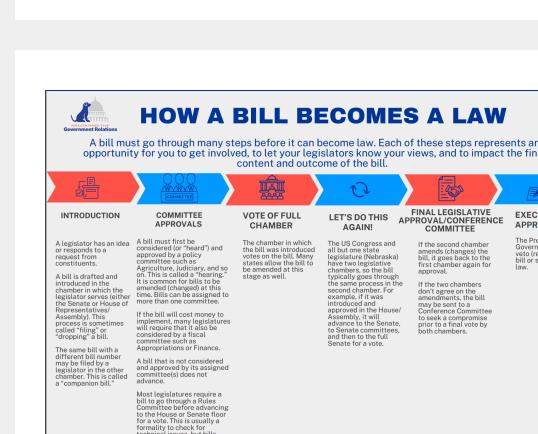


### New in the GR Toolbox: Everyone Wins at a National Specialty Dog Show

When you're passionate about your breed, attending your National Specialty is an exciting way to showcase your dog, reconnect with friends, and enjoy a fun getaway. And while you're paying for your hotel, buying gas, or going out to eat, you are injecting significant financial resources into the host location's local community. By [capturing the specific economic impact of a National Specialty](#), the American Kennel Club's Government Relations Department (AKC GR) is able to demonstrate to lawmakers and prospective host communities that these shows can add tremendous value to their community.

A 2023 survey by AKC GR of participants at a National Specialty reveals that attendees spend an average of \$2,522 per event in the host community. AKC GR is pleased to release a new [fact sheet on the economic impact of AKC National Specialty shows](#). We encourage you to share this information widely.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### Support the AKC PAC and Get a Custom Caricature of You and Your Dog on an ANC 2023 Holiday Ornament

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. 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 [KGP@akc.org](mailto:KGP@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.

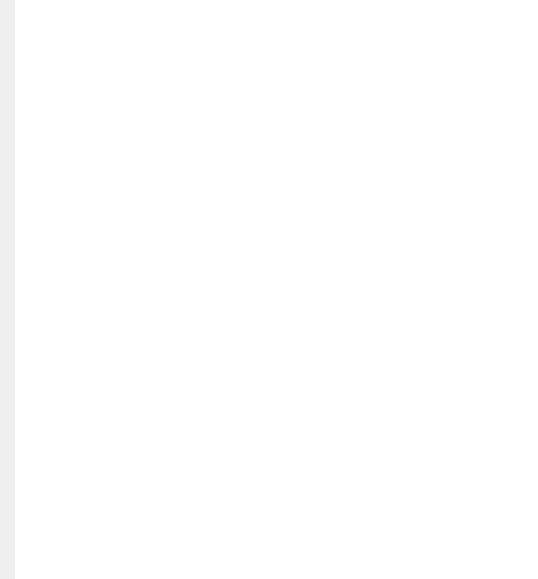


### Demystifying How a Bill Becomes a Law

Every law begins as an idea. It could originate from citizens, advocacy groups, government agencies, or elected officials. Understanding how laws are made empowers individuals and groups to advocate for changes or improvements. To help make the process easier to understand, AKC GR has created a [fact sheet that explains and demystifies the multiple steps in the legislative process](#).

From how a bill is introduced through final approval in the executive branch, this one pager walks you through the entire process and helps you understand common legislative language, terms and processes. Understanding procedural steps in lawmaking helps you confidently participate in the democratic process, hold your elected representatives accountable, and contribute to the creation of effective and just laws.

[READ MORE](#)



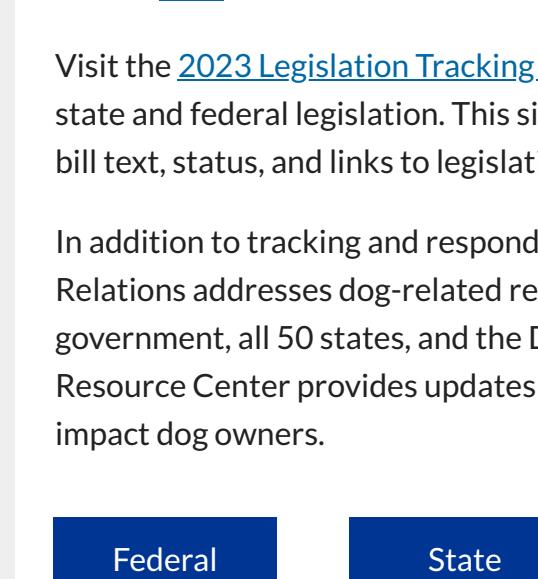
### AKC Meets with City Leaders at Annual Summit

AKC GR met with municipal leaders from across the U.S. at the National League of Cities Annual Summit on November 15-17 in Atlanta, Georgia.

This year's event brought together more than 4,000 attendees, including 3,500 mayors, city council members, city managers, and local government representatives.

The NLC Annual Summit provides opportunities for city officials to collaborate with their peers and confer with policy experts and industry professionals. AKC Government Relations attends the Summit to demonstrate AKC's expertise on dog issues and share with lawmakers that AKC and AKC clubs are knowledgeable sources of reliable, science-backed information for cities seeking to promote responsible dog ownership and address canine issues.

[READ MORE](#)



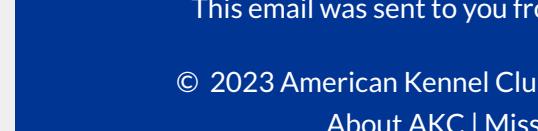
### AKC Government Relations Demonstrates Expertise to Virginia County Leaders

This week, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated in the Virginia Association of Counties Annual Conference. This year's conference was held at the historic Omni Homestead in Hot Springs, Virginia, and brought together over 300 county elected officials and leaders from across Virginia's 95 counties.

Participating at conferences of counties, cities, and other municipalities provides AKC GR staff with the opportunity to meet with local elected officials, share our expertise, and advocate for effective and reasonable canine policy.

According to Charley Hall, AKC GR Regional Manager for the Mid-Atlantic Region, "Bringing AKC resources to local government conferences provides many opportunities to interact with decision makers who increasing continue to set policy that impacts responsible dog owners and breeders."

[READ MORE](#)



### Mississippi Gulf Coast Kennel Club Hosts AKC Canine Legislative Advocacy Event

Following the conclusion of judging at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Kennel Club (MGCKC) dog show in early November, AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) hosted an informal pizza dinner and a discussion of canine legislation. Staff also provided advocacy resources and an information table on Saturday.

The 2023 Southern Harvest Cluster, held by MGCKC and area group and specialty clubs, featured three days of events that included conformation shows; an all-breed B-match; Fast CAT trials; and AKC Temperament Tests, Canine Good Citizen Tests, and Trick Dog evaluations. Not only does MGCKC hold their autumn dog show cluster, the club also is active in their community year-round. Members offer dog training classes and host responsible dog ownership events, meet the breed days, and other public education activities throughout the year.

[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 [here](#).

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

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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