

## Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



### What's New in Government Relations

In 2023, AKC Government Relations (GR) remained actively engaged with federations, club members, breeders, and dog owners nationwide, addressing legislative proposals impacting the dog community. Throughout the year, GR tracked over 2,400 bills and regulations at state and federal levels, emphasizing the importance of constituents' voices in shaping responsible dog ownership policies. [The department's legislative successes](#) include topics such as mandatory spay/neuter proposals at the local level and federal regulations affecting breeders. Additionally, AKC GR successfully advocated for amendments on numerous measures and opposed a breeders' moratorium in Los Angeles and fought anti-breeder bills in Florida and numerous other states. Other key issue areas included animal cruelty regulations and dog imports.

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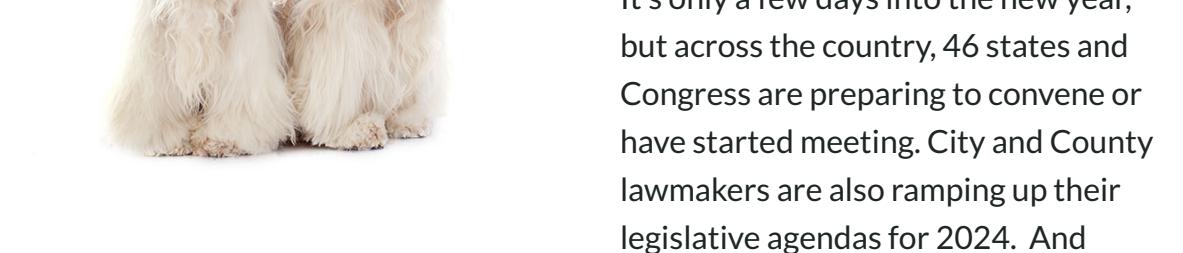


### AKC Government Relations Year in Review – 2023 Trends and Reflections, and a 2024 Preview

This past year was yet another busy one for AKC Government Relations (GR), and we are grateful for the work of federations, club members, breeders, and dog owners across the country who partnered with us on behalf of dogs.

This partnership proved essential as lawmakers on the federal, state, and local levels continued in the second half of the year to consider proposals impacting not only breeders, but dog owners and enthusiasts as well.

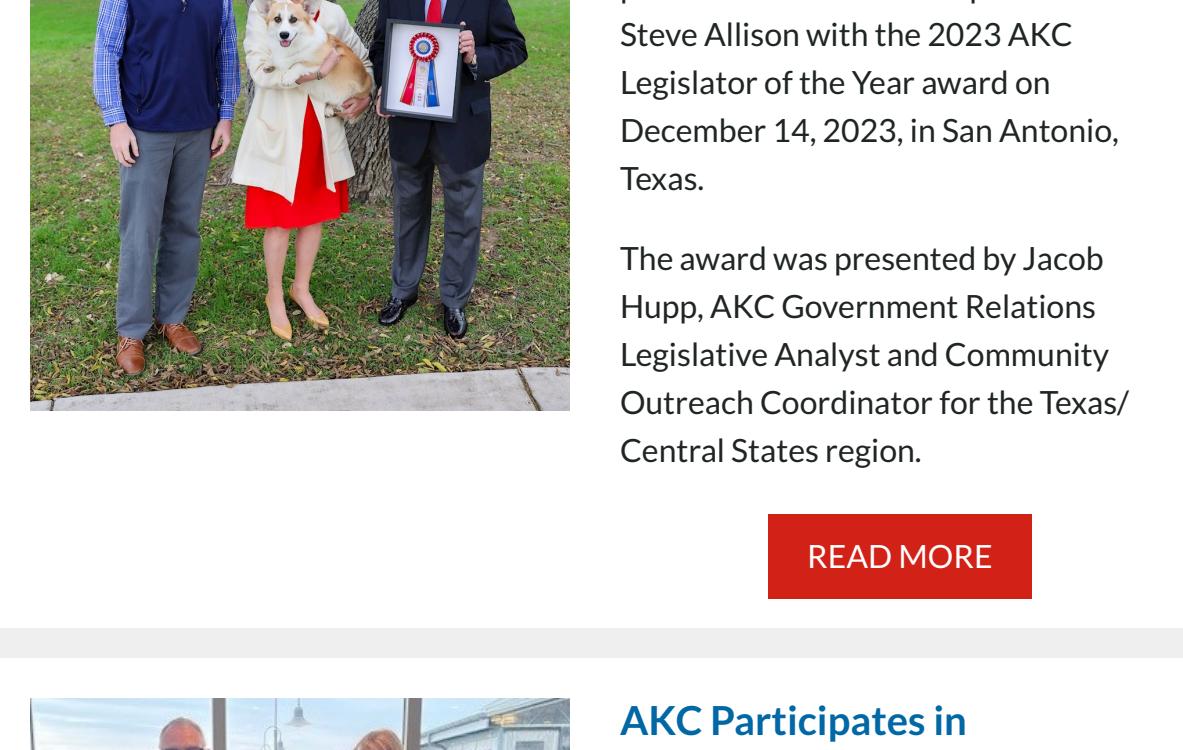
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### Protect Yourself and Your Dogs From Anti-Dog/Anti-Breeder Legislation in 2024

It's only a few days into the new year, but across the country, 46 states and Congress are preparing to convene or have started meeting. City and County lawmakers are also ramping up their legislative agendas for 2024. And already, there are many severe threats facing dog owners and enthusiasts:

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### AKC Presents Texas Rep Steve Allison with 2023 Legislator of the Year Award

The American Kennel Club® (AKC) presented Texas State Representative Steve Allison with the 2023 AKC Legislator of the Year award on December 14, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas.

The award was presented by Jacob Hupp, AKC Government Relations Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Texas/Central States region.

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### AKC Participates in Sportsmen's Caucus 20th Annual Summit

The American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) recently participated in the 20th Annual Sportsman-Legislator Summit in Dewey Beach, Delaware. The event for state legislators was hosted by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC) in partnership with the Delaware Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. It was attended by over 200 participants from Alaska to New Hampshire, the vast majority of whom are state lawmakers.

AKC was a sponsor of the event and one of six exhibitors. At the AKC GR exhibit booth, staffed by Sheila Goffe, Vice President, AKC Government Relations and Charley Hall, AKC Government Relations Mid-Atlantic Region Manager, attendees were provided with an array of educational materials demonstrating AKC's expertise on all issues related to responsible ownership of dogs and the sporting tradition of dogs. Numerous lawmakers stopped by to share about their dogs and their roles as companion animals and performance/hunting dogs.

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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 [here](#).

Visit the [2024 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

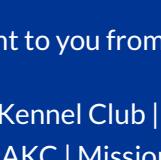
Local

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

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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