



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

Taking Command will be undergoing a hosting change as of Friday, February 24th. If you experience issues with the links, please [click here](#). Thank you for your patience.



What's New in Government Relations

As of this writing, Congress and 44 state legislatures are in session. Hundreds of local and municipal councils are also in session. To see the latest bill highlights visit our legislative tracking links below or visit the American Kennel Club legislative action center [here](#). Many legislatures are front loading their sessions with activity to give lawmakers more time to prepare for upcoming elections. To help you prepare for upcoming elections, the new 2024 AKC GR [Election Guide](#), is now available. This guide provides you with tips and tools to make the most of elections season to advocate for dogs and to identify candidates that share our love of purpose bred dogs. It also provides easy steps to mobilize individuals and clubs.

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AKC Detection Dog Task Force



AKC DDTF Webinar Series: "Working Canine Nutrition – The State of the Science"

We are pleased to welcome back Erin Perry, MS, PhD, for a discussion and presentation that will focus on the crucial role of nutrition in working dogs. Key area of emphasis will include:

An Overview of the Gut/Brain Axis and the Nutritional Impact on Cognition/Behavior

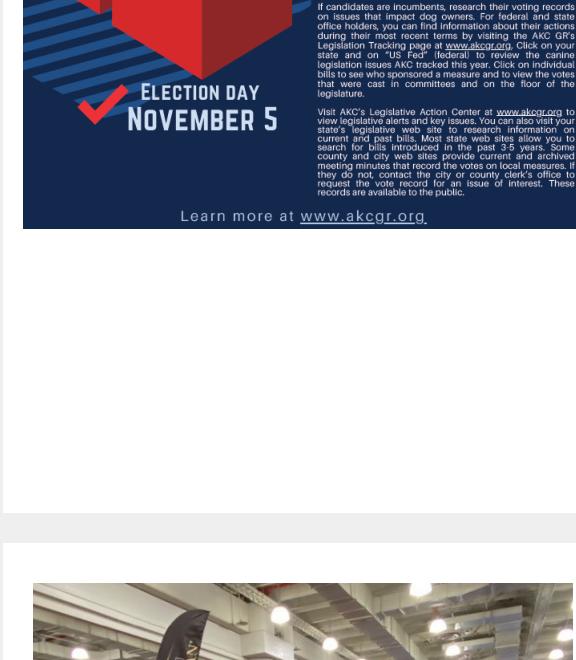
The online event will take place **Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 7:30pm ET.**

The session will last approximately one hour.

To participate, [register at this link](#). Registration will ONLY be accepted at this link. Replying to this email will not register you for the meeting.

We welcome your questions! Please email Melissa.Ferrell@akc.org to pre-submit any questions for discussion.

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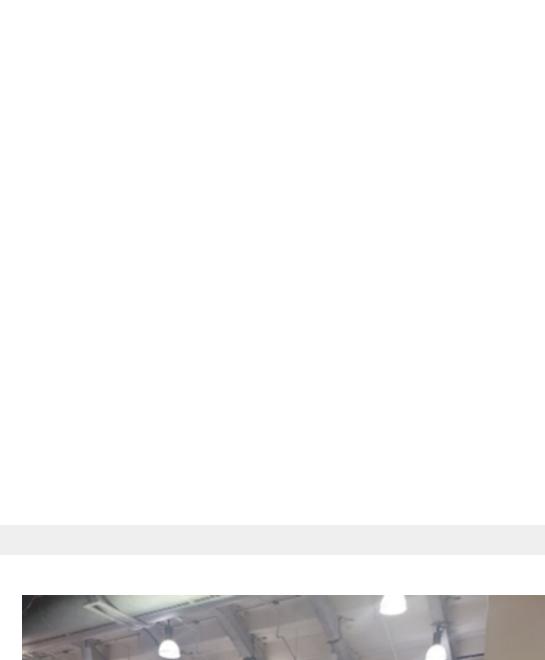


AKC GR Introduces 2024 Election Guide

All elections can have a significant impact on the rights of hobbyists, fanciers, and purebred owners. It is essential for the future of our purebred dogs and the sport that you help us ensure that dog-friendly candidates are elected in November.

AKC Government Relations has created a 2024 Election Guide with simple things you and your club can do to make a difference in the upcoming elections – from ensuring all your club members are registered to vote, to identifying the dog-friendly candidates in your area.

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Lawmakers and Public Embrace Canine Enthusiasm at AKC Meet the Breeds in NYC

In an enormous showcase of affection for man's best friend, more than 25,000 dog lovers, including numerous lawmakers and legislative staff, gathered at the Javits Center in New York City on January 27 and 28 for the highly anticipated AKC Meet the Breeds event. With more than 130 different dog breeds on display, the booths vividly depicted each breed's country of origin, historical purpose, and unique functions. The attendees were treated to demonstrations of dog sports and working dogs showcasing their skills, creating an atmosphere of canine celebration.

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AKC GR Shares Passion and Policy For Dogs With Municipal Leaders

Last week, the AKC Government Relations Department (AKC GR) attended the Massachusetts Municipal Association's (MMA) annual meeting and trade show, held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. The theme of this year's event was "Turning passion into action," and AKC demonstrated how we turn our passion for dogs into action by hosting an exhibit booth with materials highlighting AKC as the recognized expert in promoting responsible dog ownership, training, and breeding.

Municipal leaders from across the state and representatives of companies that provide products and services to towns and cities gathered for two days of informative workshops, interactive discussions, and networking opportunities. Because municipal officials are responsible for enforcing state and municipal laws impacting dogs and their owners, AKC GR introduces itself to attendees as an expert resource for answering questions and assisting with policy proposals.

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



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

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