



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

Exciting Website Update: We would like to announce the beta testing launch of our new AKC Government Relations [Legislative Action Center](#). This newly-designed marks a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance your experience and engagement with AKC Government Relations. As we continue to refine and improve the functionality and design of the website, we invite you to explore its features and provide us with your valuable feedback. Your input will be instrumental in shaping the final version of the website, ensuring that it meets your needs and expectations.

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New Animal Rights Trend: Weaponizing Oversight of Breeders

When we think about legislation that threatens our breeding programs or our sport, we typically think of issues like extreme and arbitrary breeder regulations, mandatory/spay neuter or ownership limits. But recent efforts by anti-breeder groups reveal a more subtle trend: legislative efforts to weaponize agency oversight of dog breeders.

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New in the GR Toolbox: Sample Policy Letter for Breed and Parent Clubs

When legislation is introduced impacting dog owners and breeders, the most important communications are from local constituents – those who live in the community and will be directly impacted by any law passed. It's also very important for breed or parent clubs to weigh in to provide expertise on their specific breed and how those dogs will be impacted.

AKC Government Relations has added a [new sample letter](#) to our Legislative Action Center toolbox for breed and parent clubs to use when writing lawmakers on specific legislative issues.

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AKC Provides Briefing to Congressional Staff on Differences Between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare

The American Kennel Club (AKC) presented an educational briefing to Congressional staff on the differences between animal rights and animal welfare-based philosophies and public policy.

AKC, represented by Vice President, Government Relations, Sheila Goffe, joined Hannah Thompson-Weeman of the Animal Agriculture Alliance and Jack Hubbard of the Center for the Environment and Welfare. Panelists outlined the significant differences in approaches related to general philosophy, responsible animal use, funding, scientific advancement and expertise in animal husbandry.

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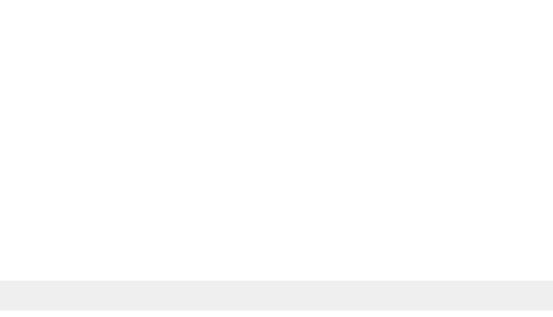


AKC Detection Dog Task Force Hosts Webinar Discussing Canine Nutrition and Working Dogs

Nutrition is a critical part of caring for a working dog. Not just to ensure the dog's health, but also to help the dog perform its jobs at the optimum level.

Yesterday, the AKC Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF) hosted a webinar entitled "Working Canine Nutrition: The State of the Science" with guest speaker Dr. Erin Perry, Ph.D., M.S., from Southern Illinois University. Dr. Perry shared her extensive expertise and knowledge to cover a broad range of issues surrounding this important topic.

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All Politics is Local: Easy Ways to Make a Difference For Dogs in Your Community

In November, local communities throughout the country held elections for county and local officials. Only four states (Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Virginia) held elections for state legislators. "Off year" elections like 2023 typically capture less public and media imagination, and voter turnout can struggle to reach even half the rate achieved in presidential elections.

The irony is that local elections – the ones with the greatest impact on the daily lives of dog enthusiasts – are also the ones in which the fewest people participate.

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AKC's Bebout Award Presented to Laurie Maulucci, President, and Members of Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

Congratulations to Laurie Maulucci, President, and members of the Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners (CFDRDO), winners of the Walter Bebout Memorial Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation. The Award was presented to CFDRDO and accepted by Ms. Maulucci at the federation's February 12 meeting.

Over the past ten years, Maulucci has made significant contributions influencing Connecticut canine legislation as federation President. In 2022, she advised the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (Department) on selecting Dr. Arnold Goldman, DVM to serve on a workgroup to help develop an online dog licensing system. Her advocacy resulted in a consensus vote to establish a flat license fee for all dogs, replacing a system of higher fees for unaltered dogs. The program will be advanced by the Department.

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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.



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