



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

As the summer sun officially greets us, so too does a renewed sense of purpose within the dog-loving community. From backyard barbecues to dog shows and family vacations, this season brings countless opportunities to celebrate the special bond we share with our canine companions. Yet, behind the scenes, significant legislative and educational efforts are unfolding to ensure that bond is protected and strengthened—for dogs, breeders, and owners alike.

This month's newsletter brings together timely and critical developments in dog policy, advocacy, education, and care. From misguided legislative proposals that could inadvertently jeopardize canine health and responsible breeding, to powerful examples of collaboration between lawmakers and canine advocates, the landscape of canine welfare continues to evolve rapidly.

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Foreign Puppy Mills Would Get a Boost Under House Proposal

Animal extremists are back, and this time, they are attempting to stamp out the breeding of dogs in the United States with a proposal that would supercharge foreign puppy mills.

The latest assault is legislation they are advancing through allies in the House that they claim will "protect puppies." It would do the opposite by punishing responsible domestic breeders with new, more burdensome regulations without providing resources to improve breeder education or enforce current laws.

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The Power of Collaboration: How AKC, Local Clubs, and State Federations Shape Canine Legislation

When it comes to protecting the interests of dog owners, breeders, and the broader canine community, collaboration is essential. This is demonstrated by recent efforts on Texas House Bill 3777 (HB 3777), which provides a compelling example of how the American Kennel Club (AKC), local clubs, and state federations can work together to influence legislation for the betterment of dogs and their owners.

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AKC GR Provides Positive Legislation to Address Shelter Population Concerns in Nevada

There are many reasons pets end up in animal shelters across the country. Unfortunately, lawmakers often turn to arbitrary breeder regulations, mandatory spay/neuter, or restrictions on owners of intact dogs as "solutions", even though it has been proven time and again these laws do not actually impact shelter population issues and instead punish responsible dog owners.

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Georgia Hands-On Training with Arete Canine and AKC's Patriotic Puppy Program Participants

Participants from the American Kennel Club's Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP) joined trainers from [Arete Canine](#) at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth, Georgia on May 17-18, 2025, for an opportunity to learn new skills for training future detection dogs for local, state and federal law enforcement programs around the country. PPP participants are breeders and trainers who are working closely with AKC staff to address the shortage of quality detection dogs available from sources found within the USA.

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Pets Flying Cargo 2025 (Domestic)				
Airline	Policy	Notes	Policy	Notes
American Airlines	Yes	AKC member airlines	American Airlines	AKC member airlines
Delta Air Lines	Yes	AKC member airlines	Delta Air Lines	AKC member airlines
JetBlue	Yes	AKC member airlines	JetBlue	AKC member airlines
Southwest Airlines	Yes	AKC member airlines	Southwest Airlines	AKC member airlines

Flying Pets in Cargo: What You Need to Know for 2025

Whether you're heading to a dog show, relocating, or just bringing your furry friend along on a well-earned vacation, air travel with pets requires careful planning, especially when flying them in cargo. Not all airlines treat pet travel the same, and their policies can vary significantly. The American Kennel Club created an updated [2025 Pets in Cargo one-pager](#) compiling the most up-to-date cargo pet travel policies for major U.S. domestic airlines.

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Essential Skills All Breeders Should Know – Part Two, May 2025

On May 21, Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board Director and DDTF Co-Chair, returned for Part 2 of the AKC Detection Dog Task Force Webinar on *Essential Skills All Breeders Should Know*. While [Part One](#) introduced eight key skills for successful breeding, this follow-up focused on the eighth: "Manage, Feed, and Develop What You Keep," with an emphasis on maternal influence, health concerns, and critical socialization skills.

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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 [2025 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 for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.

