



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

As concerns around shelter populations, at-large dogs, and humane care for animals gain momentum nationwide, lawmakers are under increasing pressure to take action. The GR team is seeing an increase in problematic proposals such as mandatory spay/neuter and intact dog registries emerging as proposed solutions. The American Kennel Club Government Relations (AKC GR) team is working actively to ensure that well-intended legislation doesn't undermine responsible dog ownership or overburden breeders.

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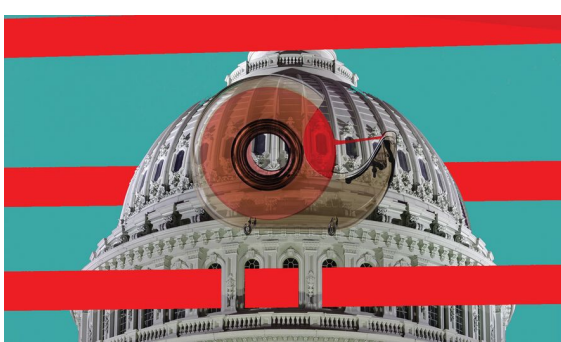


New in the GR Toolbox: Animated Policy Video Explains AKC's Position on Mandatory Spay/Neuter

Lawmakers are under increasing pressure from activists and concerned citizens to "do something" to address shelter population concerns.

Shortly after his election in 2024, the new mayor of Houston announced that he believed mandatory spay/neuter would be an effective solution to shelter and at-large dog concerns in the city. Just a few months earlier, the city of Indianapolis established a registry and numerous requirements for anyone who owns an intact dog.

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Stopping Deedless Government Growth Before It Starts

If the [Trump](#) administration's nascent [Department of Government Efficiency](#) wants to prevent a costly bureaucratic debacle before it drains taxpayer coffers, the office should focus its attention on an effort emerging in the House and Senate to duplicate responsibilities across two massive government agencies.

At issue is a measure called the Better Collaboration, Accountability and Regulatory Enforcement for Animals Act. The bill would create an entirely new bureaucracy in the [Department of Justice](#) to oversee, of all things, enforcement of dog breeders, which for decades has been the responsibility of animal experts at the Department of Agriculture.

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AKC Government Relations Hosts Midwest Regional Legislative Conference in St. Louis

On June 14, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) brought together nearly two dozen federation leaders and club members primarily from across the Midwest region to St. Louis, Missouri, for a regional legislative conference.

Attendees enjoyed networking with fellow club members and dog enthusiasts from the region, while learning about issues impacting dogs, breeders, and events in the Midwestern states.

Sheila Goffe, AKC Executive Secretary and Vice President of Government Relations, opened the conference with an overview of government relations advocacy tools and resources. She concluded the day with an update on legislative trends and federal canine issues.

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AKC GR Connects with Pennsylvania Community Leaders at Annual Educational Conferences

For the fourth consecutive year, AKC Government Relations (AKCGR) participated in both the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) and the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Annual Conference.

AKC GR Mid-Atlantic Manager Charley Hall provided information to attendees with conversation and materials demonstrating AKC as the recognized expert in promoting responsible dog ownership, training, and breeding, as well sharing information about affiliated clubs and charities.

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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

Issues that may affect all dog owners in the U.S.

State

Issues specific to your state

Local

Issues at the city, county, and metropolitan levels, and in U.S. territories

Regulatory

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.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

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