



Taking Command

September 2025

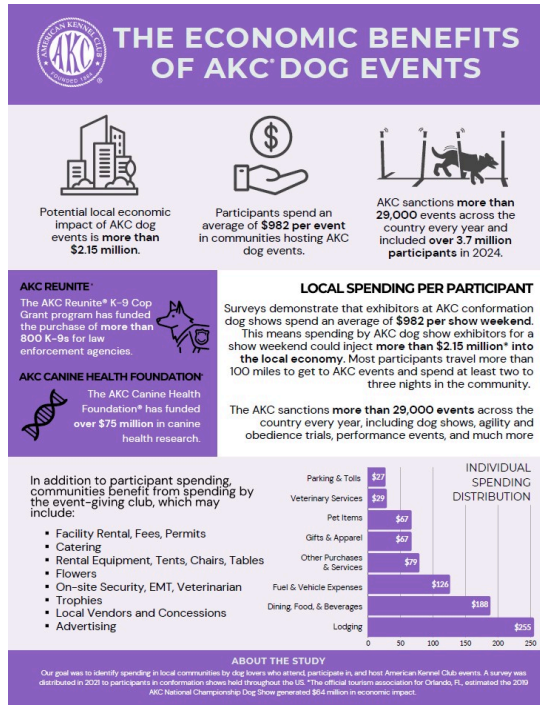
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What's New in Government Relations

Fall is a busy time with many shows, national specialties, and other events scheduled around the country. It's important to remember that all those expenses – from facility rentals to last-minute Wal-Mart runs – can translate to a significant economic impact for those local communities.

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Your Dog Show Expenses Mean Real Power in the Local Community

Exhibitors know better than anyone the myriad of costs and logistics that go into a dog show weekend. Expenses and services can range from lodging, meals, handlers' fees, fuel, incidentals, "must-have" items from the vendors, and of course the last-minute grocery or Wal-Mart runs.

All those expenses can translate to real impact in that community, and economic power—and even policy-making power for dog clubs. Capturing this information and reminding local community leaders about the local benefits of dog events and AKC clubs is one of the easiest and most important ways we as clubs and exhibitors can educate about the value that purebred dogs and their owners bring to a community.

[Originally published in Showsight Magazine – July 2025 Edition](#)

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AKC GR Provides Advocacy Resources at Pennsylvania Breeder Expo

Recently, Charley Hall, AKC Government Relations Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, attended the annual Pennsylvania Animal Welfare & Safety (PAWS) Pet Breeders Educational Expo at the Solanco Fairgrounds in Quarryville, PA.

The 2025 event brought together breeders, prospective breeders, dog owners, veterinarians, representatives from USDA and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, and community members. Attendees were able to take part in a full-day program that included educational sessions on canine health, responsible breeding practices, kennel management, tips on proper socialization of puppies, and updates on state and federal legislation impacting breeders.

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AKC Patriotic Puppy Program Welcomes New Participants at Northeast Regional Seminar

Last week, the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program welcomed new participants to Waterbury, CT, for its Northeast regional seminar, delivering expert coaching for seasoned trainers and a strong start for newcomers.

Sheila Goffe, Executive Secretary & Vice President, Government Relations, opened the morning with an introduction to AKC Government Relations (GR) and the background of the Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF). AKC works to remedy the shortage of high-quality domestically-bred explosives detection dogs to protect U.S. national security and public safety in three areas.

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Empowering Dog Owners and Defending Canine Traditions: AKC GR Presents to ISAA

Recently, American Kennel Club Government Relations (AKC GR) staff presented a virtual presentation to the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America (ISAA) entitled "Protecting the Rights of Dog Owners & Preserving Our Canine Traditions," which outlined the growing legislative challenges dog owners face across the country and how AKC GR and local federations and clubs are leading efforts to combat harmful laws and promote dog-friendly policies.

"It was an inspiring and engaging session with the passionate members of the ISAA, who clearly care deeply about their breed, their rights as dog owners, and the future of responsible dog ownership," said Charley Hall, AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager, who provided the presentation.

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In Memoriam: Kevin Priddle

By: Jacob M. Hupp, Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator for Central US

The American Kennel Club (AKC) Government Relations team mourns the passing of Kevin E. Priddle, a devoted advocate for the rights of responsible dog owners and a steadfast supporter of purebred dogs.

Kevin served as the Legislative Committee Director for the Doberman Pinscher Club of America and as President of the Doberman Pinscher Club of the Indian Nations, where he worked tirelessly to advance responsible dog ownership and safeguard the rights of breeders and exhibitors. He was a valued partner to AKC Government Relations, contributing his time and expertise through interviews for the AKC Canine College and as a featured presenter at our recent Midwest Regional Conference.

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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.

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