



Taking Command

August 2025

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New in Government Relations

As summer is winding down, many are beginning to focus on a return to school. It's also a great time for clubs, fanciers and breeders to reach out to lawmakers and educate them on the benefits of purebred dogs, responsible breeders, and AKC events in their communities.

[READ MORE](#)

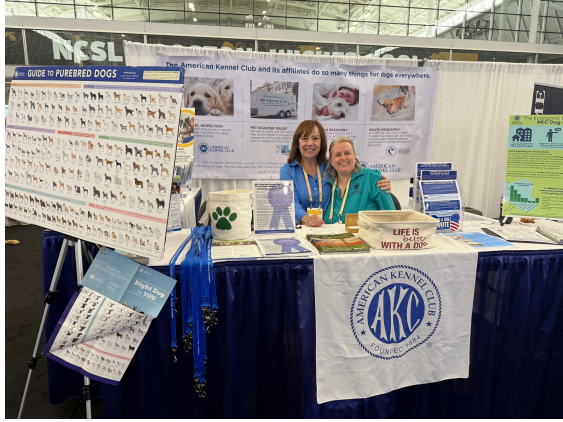


AKC Government Relations 2025 Legislative Review - The First 6 Months

After a busy and dramatic election season, all 50 state legislatures, Congress and many cities and counties have already met in 2025 to deliberate on a broad variety of issues – and animals were once again a high priority.

The vast majority of state legislatures have either adjourned for the year or are on summer recess. To date, the American Kennel Club is tracking over 1,700 bills impacting dogs and dog owners across the country. This is an increase of approximately 300 bills over what AKC GR tracked at the same time in 2023 (the last time all 50 state legislatures were in session).

[READ MORE](#)



Lawmakers Praise AKC Resources at National Lawmaker's Conference

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) held their 50th annual summit this week in Boston, Massachusetts, with a record-breaking attendance of over 9,000 lawmakers, staff, policymakers and government relations professionals. Once again AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) staff hosted an informational booth that NCSL staff affirmed was one of the most popular stops at the conference.

NCSL is an important annual event that provides an opportunity for AKC GR to interact with and educate thousands of lawmakers and legislative staff from around the country. This year, New England Regional Manager Stacey Ober and Director of Legislative Outreach Jennifer Clark attended and provided attendees with a wealth of information about the AKC, dogs, and canine policy.

[READ MORE](#)

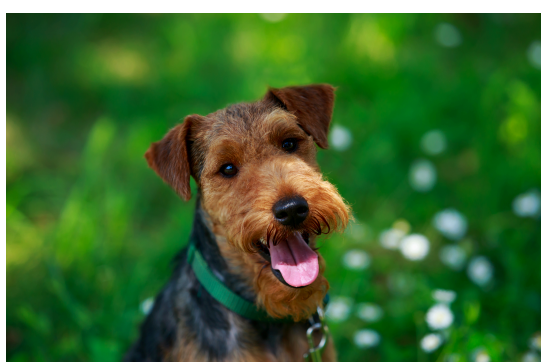


AKC Participates at American Legislative Exchange Council's Annual Meeting

Last week, the American Kennel Club Government Relations Department (AKC GR) participated as an exhibitor at the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) 52nd Annual Meeting, hosted this year in Indianapolis, Indiana.

ALEC's annual meeting is a unique opportunity, bringing together state policymakers, business leaders, and advocacy organizations from across the U.S. for informative workshops, interactive discussions, and meaningful networking. The 2025 conference welcomed more than 1,000 attendees and featured over 40 exhibitors, all focused on advancing effective policy solutions at the state level.

[READ MORE](#)



Lawmakers Learn About AKC at 2025 NACo Annual Conference

AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) recently participated in the 2025 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This annual event brings together thousands of county officials from across the nation to discuss key policy issues affecting their communities – including responsible dog ownership and effective canine legislation.

At the conference, AKC GR hosted an informational booth to educate local leaders about AKC's mission, legislative work, and community outreach, including the many services provided by AKC. Staff met with elected officials and provided valuable resources on responsible breeding, canine policy, and the important role of AKC-affiliated dog clubs in building stronger communities.

[READ MORE](#)



Announcement from Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA)

Clubs interested in recognition for outstanding communication about their breed or sport are encouraged to submit entries to the Dog Writers Association of America (DWAA) writing competition. The contest is open to Journalists, authors, bloggers, photographers, illustrators, editors, and young writers. Regular category winners receive the coveted Maxwell Medallion, named for dog writing legend Maxwell Riddle. Special category winners receive cash prizes.

Entries will be accepted between September 1, 2025, and October 31, 2025. Submissions must have a publication, post, or airing date between September 1, 2024, and August 31, 2025. For junior writers, publication can mean posting on a school website, literary magazine, or blog. For complete information about the contest, including rules, entry fees, award descriptions, and FAQs, please visit the [DWAA website here](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)

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.

This email was sent to you from an AKC mailing list. [Unsubscribe here](#).

© 2025 American Kennel Club | 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178

[About AKC](#) | [Mission Statement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

