



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

Election Day 2018 is November 6. In these last days leading up to the election, candidates are vying for your vote. You may receive phone calls, visits from volunteer door knockers, or even a direct appeal from the candidate. As you walk to your polling place for early voting or on Election Day, you may pass dozens of workers with signs, stickers, and hand-outs who seek a last-minute chance to influence your vote. A candidate may introduce him or herself and offer to shake your hand.

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AKC Government Relations Helps Protect Your Dogs, Breeding Program

As a breeder, you are dedicated to your dogs and your breed. You spend countless hours, time, and energy to ensure your dogs are healthy, well cared for, and loved. And the American Kennel Club is committed to partnering with you to help achieve these goals through a myriad of programs, education, and resources.

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Meet the AKC Government Relations Staff

The AKC is pleased to introduce Stacey Ober, the newest member of the AKC GR Team. Stacey is based out of Massachusetts and oversees public policy and outreach for AKC GR in New England.

Learn more about Stacey – and the rest of your contacts at AKC GR below. [Click here](#) for a map of GR staff and contacts by region.

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Congress moves to ensure the greater availability of explosives detecting dogs in the US

Dogs are working on the front lines of homeland security, protecting some of our most vulnerable public spaces. Patrolling airports, stadiums, and train stations to sniff out explosives, they are a vital and irreplaceable piece of American law enforcement. Congress has just taken a major step forward to ensure that we can acquire and train enough dogs to meet our security needs.

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Sweeping Changes to Nova Scotia's Animal Protection Act Offer Cautionary Tale for American Dog Enthusiasts

Earlier this month, the Legislature of the Canadian Province of Nova Scotia passed [Bill 27](#), an “Act to Protect Animals and to Aid Animals in Distress” proposed by the province’s Minister of Agriculture. According to the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC), Bill 27, which awaits Royal Assent to become effective, removes the rights of animal

ownership by changing the word “owner” to “custodian” in province law and includes any person who has possession of an animal. The bill also gives the Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty greater freedom to enter private property and demand that pets in a home be produced for inspection, and to enter any dwelling that is not a private home at any time without probable cause. The new law would also ban cosmetic surgery on animals—which it defines as including tail docking, ear cropping, devocalization or debarking, onychectomy (declawing) or dewclaw removal—unless performed by a veterinarian to treat an injury or disease or for other medical reasons determined by a veterinarian as necessary or beneficial to the health of the animal.

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Your Election Guide

Primary elections across the U.S. are narrowing the list of candidates who will be on the ballot on Election Day, November 6. To preserve the future of purebred dogs, it's important to identify dog-friendly candidates and use your vote to elect those who will protect the rights of responsible dog owners, exhibitors, and breeders. Here are four steps that every dog owner should take during the 2018 midterm election cycle.

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Nominate Your Legislator

Do you know of a federal, state, or local elected official who has taken a stand to protect responsible dog ownership?

Consider nominating a deserving legislator you have worked with for an AKC Legislator of the Year Award. This award is a wonderful way to recognize lawmakers who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to promoting responsible dog ownership, the well-being of dogs, and protecting the rights of dog owners, exhibitors, and responsible breeders.

[Nominate Your Legislator](#)

Legislative Information and Updates

Three states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are currently in session, and four states are in special sessions. Full Congress returns from recess on following the election in November. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 2,000 bills on the federal, state, and local levels. For more information on these bills, and information on how you can get involved, visit the AKC GR Legislative Action Center at www.akcgr.org. Here are some highlights of pending canine legislation issues across the country.

Visit the [2018 Legislation Tracking page](#) 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. Click on the links below to view highlights of issues that are being tracked by AKC Government Relations:

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

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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