



Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



What's New from AKC Government Relations

Election results are being finalized across the country and there's a new crop of lawmakers in Congress, statehouses, and local communities across the country. Now is a good time to reach out to your newly-elected legislators. This month's Taking Command includes a [communications action plan](#) for dog advocates so you can start now in taking important steps on behalf of your club, breeding program, and your dogs.

[Read More](#)



Election Wrap-up: You Voted...Now Introduce Yourself!

The elections may be over, but our work as responsible dog owners, exhibitors, and breeders is just beginning. Many states elected a large number of new lawmakers on the federal, state, and local levels – most of whom likely know very little about canine legislation.

Most state legislatures will reconvene in early 2019, and many are already beginning pre-filing bills for next session. This is why it is critical for you as a member of a local club or state federation, or as a responsible breeder and dog owner, to take the next several weeks to educate your lawmakers about the importance of promoting and protecting responsible dog ownership.

Here are a few simple ideas of effective, proactive actions you can take over the next couple months to make a big difference for dog owners in your state.

[Read More](#)



Florida Amendment 13 to Ban Greyhound Racing in Connection with Wagering Passes, No Impact on AKC Events Expected

On election day, Florida voters approved a new state constitutional amendment that will phase out [commercial dog racing in the state in connection with wagering](#) by 2020. Passage of this amendment means that Florida will join 40 other U.S. states that ban this practice. [The amendment passed with 69% of voters supporting the amendment.](#)

The amendment provides that after December 31, 2020, a person authorized to conduct gaming or pari-mutuel operations may not race greyhounds or any other dog in connection with any wager for money (or any other thing of value) on the outcome of a live dog race occurring in Florida. The new amendment only applies to those who are approved by the state to conduct racing operations related to gambling.

[Read More](#)

Canine Legislative Leaders Climb Aboard for AKC GR West Coast Conference

The American Kennel Club Government Relations Department held a West Coast Legislative Conference in Sacramento, California on Saturday, November 3. The



day-long event took place aboard the Delta King, a riverboat-turned-hotel, docked in Old Town Sacramento.

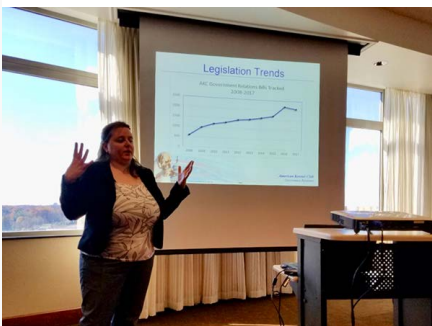
[Read More](#)



The AKC Honors Representative John T. O'Connor as Legislator of the Year

The American Kennel Club (AKC®), the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, is pleased to announce that State Representative John T. O'Connor of New Hampshire will be presented with the 2018 AKC Legislator of the Year Award for New Hampshire.

[Read More](#)



Indiana Dog Advocates Meet to Discuss Protecting Dogs and Dog Owners

AKC Government Relations joined with the Indiana Purebred Dog Alliance (IPDA- AKC's Indiana federation) on Saturday, November 10, to host a meeting for Hoosier clubs to talk about protecting their rights to continue to own, breed, and show dogs.

[Read More](#)



Alabama Cotton Cluster Exhibitors Meet to Discuss Canine Legislation Trends

The American Kennel Club Government Relations Department, in conjunction with the Decatur Alabama Kennel Club and Huntsville Kennel Club, recently hosted a casual dinner and mini-legislative conference to discuss canine legislative trends and how dog owners can work together to protect our rights to own, breed, and exhibit the dogs we love.

[Read More](#)



AKC GR Attends National League of Cities in LA

In November, staff from AKC's Government Relations Department (AKC GR) attended the National League of Cities 2018 City Summit in Los Angeles. Legislators, municipal government staff, and administrators attend the annual conference for seminars, to listen to speakers, and to engage with organizations such as the AKC to discuss local government policies, trends, and technology.

[Read More](#)

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. With elections (mostly) over, Congress has returned to Washington for a “lame-duck” session. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 2,500 bills at 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.



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

[Learn About Dogs](#) | [Register Your Dog](#) | [AKC Events](#) | [AKC Clubs](#)



American Kennel Club, 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178
You are subscribed to AKC Government Relations news. You can unsubscribe at any time.
© 2018 American Kennel Club. All Rights Reserved.

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