



# Taking Command

## A Publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

*June 2018*

### What's New from AKC Government Relations

Recently, we have seen a number of successes across the country that will have a positive impact on dogs, dog owners, breeders, and our sport. These include amendments to bills in Rhode Island (House Bill 7045 and Senate Bill 2055) that will protect humane tethering for hunting, herding, and sled dogs, and the passage of House Bill 506 in Ohio, which creates reasonable standards for commercial breeders and subsequently caused animal rights activists to remove a measure from the 2018 ballot that would have been detrimental to dogs, hobby breeders, and sportsmen.



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### Lost/Stolen Show Dogs in Dallas Could be Returned ... AFTER They're Neutered

A week ago, dog owners and exhibitors around the world cheered when news broke that 14 show dogs in a van stolen in California were found safe. The dogs were taken to the nearby Haven Humane Society to be checked out, and then were quickly



reunited with their owners and handler. The dogs were healthy and intact.

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## A Plain-English Explanation of the Recent USDA-APHIS Rule Change

On Monday, June 4, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [published new changes to its regulations](#) to help implement changes made by Congress in 2014 to the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Because some purebred dog breeders may be required to be regulated under the AWA as dealers, we provide this explanation of these recent changes.



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## Nominate Your Legislator

It's that time of year again ... It's time to express your appreciation for 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.

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Don't Forget to Register!

## **AKC Mountain West Legislative Conference**



Hear from experts on canine legislation, communications, and grassroots advocacy. Learn and share trends, strategies, and tips for legislative success with others from the western United States.

Contact Nathan Makla for more information  
[nathan.makla@akc.org](mailto:nathan.makla@akc.org) or 919-816-3720

## The Truth About Tethering

The American Kennel Club Government Relations (AKC GR) department has noticed a recent uptick in anti-dog policies on the local level. One of the most prevalent issues being considered in communities throughout the United States is the regulation of tethering.

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## Legislative Information and Updates

Currently, 11 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are in session. Virginia is in a special legislative session. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 2,000 bills and regulation on the federal, state, and local levels. For more information on these bills, and information on how you can get involved, visit our Legislative Action Center at [www.akcgr.org](http://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/Other** – 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](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.

### Resources


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