



Taking Command

A Publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

July 2018

What's New from AKC Government Relations

The American Kennel Club's Government Relations department (AKC GR) has been on the road this summer and will continue to cover ground across the United States.

On the weekend of July 13th, the GR team hosted a [two-day legislative conference](#) in the Denver, Colorado area where dozens of dog owners, breeders, and community leaders met to learn about how to be effective advocates and protect their rights. Other conferences will be held soon, including one in the Sacramento, California, area on October 6, and another in Kentucky or Tennessee. AKC GR will provide more information on these events in the coming weeks.



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Advocates, Dog Lovers Meet at Mountain West Legislative Conference

Dozens of dog owners and breeders descended on Denver, Colorado, last weekend to attend the AKC Mountain West Legislative Conference. The backgrounds,

breeds, and states varied, but the attendees had a common goal – to network and learn how to be better advocates for their dogs.

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The US has become a dumping ground for foreign ‘puppy mill’ and ‘rescue’ dogs. Here’s what needs to change

Americans love dogs. As a nation, we own approximately 80 million and acquire another 8 million each year. Anyone who has stared into the beseeching eyes of a pup who wants nothing more than to pass time on a welcoming lap or have her ears gently scratched knows that these are far more than cherished pets. They are family members.

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AKC Statement Regarding Stakeholder Discussions of AWA Priorities

Founded in 1884, The American Kennel Club is the world’s largest purebred dog registry, the nation’s largest purebred rescue network, and the only not-for-profit purebred dog registry devoted for more than 130 years to the health and well-being of dogs. We work actively to educate about responsible dog ownership and advocate for humane treatment of all dogs. We actively



demonstrate our commitment to responsible dog ownership and breeding through a variety of educational programs, humane programs, a multi-million-dollar commitment to canine health research through the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and by conducting thousands of kennel inspections each year.

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AKC urges City of Springfield to Vote NO on BSL Ballot Measure

The City of Springfield, Missouri will vote on August 7th whether to 'establish a future ban upon the possession of new pit bull dogs within City limits.' The American Kennel Club is urging residents to vote "NO". Currently, the City of Springfield has some restrictions on pit bull-type dogs, such as mandatory spay and neuter, additional licensing fees, and signage at each entrance of homes with pit bulls stating "Pit Bull Dog,". Under current law, all pit bull dogs must also be muzzled when off their owner's property, including dogs that are visiting or passing through the city. Current city statute defines a pit bull dog as "any dog that is an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier" or any dog that closely resembles any of these breeds.



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AKC GR Advocates for Responsible Dog Laws at National County Commissioners Conference

The National Association of Counties (NACo) held their 83rd annual Conference and Exposition in Nashville, TN earlier this month.

The conference drew a cross-section of elected officials and county staff from across the country. Attendees came together to learn, network, and share best practices aimed to improve residents' lives and the efficiency of county government. American Kennel Club Government Relations (GR) staff members were on hand to answer questions, provide resources to promote responsible dog ownership, and discuss effective canine policy.



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2018 Legislative Successes Around the Country

Thanks to the amazing efforts of AKC federations, clubs, liaisons, and dog advocates across the country, we have several new victories to report for responsible owners and breeders. Visit our [Legislative Successes page](#) to view a list of highlights from across the country. Thank you to all who work so tirelessly on behalf of our dogs and our sport!



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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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Legislative Information and Updates

Congress, 7 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are currently in session, and four states are accepting pre-filed bills for upcoming sessions. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 2,000 bills on the federal, state, and local levels, many of which are carried over from 2017. For more information on these bills, and information on how you can get involved, visit our 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/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 for more information or to let us know what's happening in your local community.

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