



# Taking Command

## A Publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

*August 2018*

### What's New from AKC Government Relations

Summer is winding down and many legislatures are in recess or have adjourned, but AKC Government Relations (AKC GR) has remained extremely busy working around the country to protect the rights of dog owners and educate legislators on canine legislation issues.

AKC GR is pleased to announce that there have been numerous legislative victories as a result of the tireless efforts of clubs, breeders, and state federations.

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### Stay Ahead of Anti-Dog Legislation – Four Things Your AKC Club Can Do TODAY

“Breed bans. Limit Laws. Mandatory spay/neuter. Breeding Restrictions and Regulations. Anti-cropping and docking laws. At every turn, it seems responsible dog owners face more and more restrictions on how they can interact with and enjoy their canine companions.”

This stark message appeared in a recent



email from Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President Government Relations, to AKC club presidents, delegates, and corresponding secretaries. Learn what your club can do today to stay informed and protect your rights.

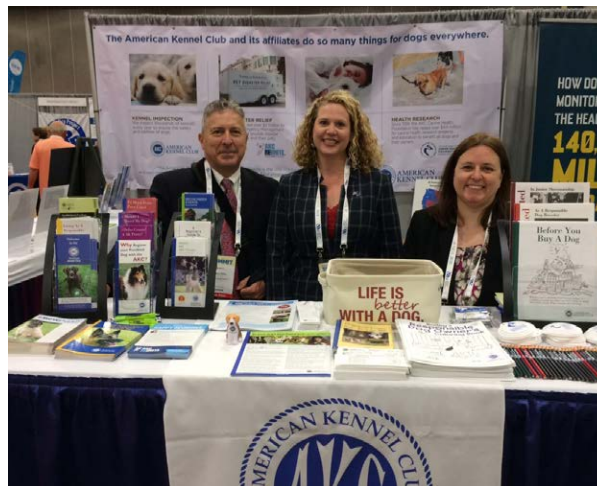
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## AKC GR Reaches Thousands of Legislators and Staff at Annual Legislative Summit

The AKC Government Relations booth once again proved to be among the most popular stops for lawmakers at the National Conference of State Legislatures Annual Summit.

For more than 20 years, AKC GR has attended this annual event, which provides the opportunity to meet with lawmakers and legislative staff from across the country and share effective, positive solutions to dog issues in their states.

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## ALEC Legislator Meeting a Success, Demonstrates the Value of Ongoing Legislator Education

The American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC) Annual Meeting, held in early August in New Orleans, provided another venue this summer for direct outreach by the AKC Government Relations team to lawmakers, legislative staff, and policy professionals from around the country. The ALEC meeting is smaller than The National Conference of State Legislators' (NCSL) annual meeting, but it provides many opportunities for in-depth, one-on-one discussions with policymakers



interested in pursuing sound animal welfare laws and policies that honor responsible breeders and owners.

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## AKC Government Relations Mourns the Loss of Dr. Al Stinson

The AKC GR team was saddened to learn about the loss of Dr. Al Stinson, a long-time breeder, leader, and advocate for purebred dogs.

Dr. Stinson, a recipient of both the AKC Community Achievement Award and the Walter Bebout Memorial Award for Leadership in Canine Legislation, served as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Michigan Association for Pure-Bred Dogs for over 30 years. MAPBD is an official AKC federation which he helped found and has now been active for over 50 years.



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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.



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## 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 September 4. 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](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.

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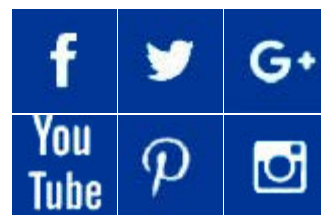
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