



# Taking Command

A publication of the AKC Government Relations Department



## What's New from AKC Government Relations

For the American Kennel Club's Government Relations department, this summer has had a unique focus on policy issues on the federal level. Topics such as detection dog, dog importation, and animal welfare have all been hot topics for Congress. The American Kennel Club continues to work closely with members of Congress to educate and advocate on behalf of all dogs.

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## In Session

AKC Government Relations is pleased to share the latest issue of our [In Session Congressional newsletter](#), which is sent to members of Congress and staff.

### In this issue

Learn more about Representative Stephanie Murphy from Florida's 7th district. Hear all about Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy's canine "Chief Morale Officer," and why a chocolate lab named Kona is the perfect fit for her family.

This issue also highlights the increasing threat of infectious disease and parasites to pet, public and, livestock health which is resulting from a surge in the import of random-source dogs for the U.S. pet

market. AKC is pleased to support language in the Farm Bill to improve oversight and health checks for dogs being imported into the United States. Learn more about what is currently being done to strengthen regulatory efforts.

Be sure to visit AKC's [Legislative Action Center](#) for talking points and materials on key issues that you can share with your lawmakers to promote responsible dog ownership and breeding. If you have any questions on legislative issues in your area, please contact AKC Government Relations at (919) 816-3720 or [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

Read In Session



### Issue Analysis

Don't miss AKC GR's latest [Issue Analysis: Rescue Dogs and Stopping a Potential Danger](#). 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. Regardless of origin, they should be a source of joy – not of danger.

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Urge U.S. Senate to Advance HR 4577 NOW to Support National Security Defense, Purpose-Bred



## Dog Breeding and Standards for US Bomb-Sniffing Dogs

Summary: The U.S. imports 80-90% of its bomb-sniffing dogs from overseas breeders. Increasing demand and a shortage of dogs places U.S. national security in unnecessary jeopardy. HR 4577 creates a path forward to improve standards and capacity for explosives detection dogs and encourages domestic breeding programs. Please contact your Senators now and ask them to urge Senate leadership to advance HR 4577.

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## Form Strategic Alliances—Two More Things Your AKC Club Can Do TODAY

Our dogs work together at tasks and at play. Picture a team of Alaskan Malamutes pulling a sledge of firewood, a brace of Pointers intensely indicating game birds, Kuvasz guarding their flock, and even a litter of rowdy puppies playing tug-of-war with a sofa cushion. By combining strength, smarts, and determination, dogs and dog advocates can accomplish more together than they can as individuals.

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The AKC Presents  
Legislator of the Year  
Award to Congressman  
Mike Rogers

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Reichman Presented  
Bebout Award at  
Somerset Hills KC Dog  
Show

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The AKC Honors  
Representative Dan  
Lauwers as Legislator of  
the Year

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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](#)

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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

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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