



# Taking Command

## A Publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

*April 2018*

### What's New from AKC Government Relations

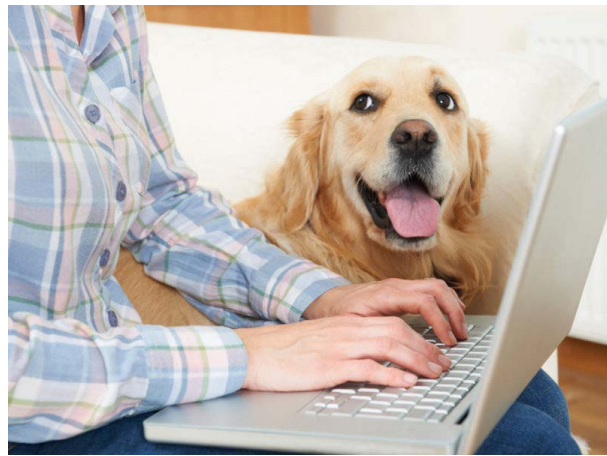
The midterm and primary elections are just around the corner! Do you know where your candidates stand on important dog-related issues? The American Kennel Club's Government Relations department has created a whole arsenal of materials you can use to when working with your legislator and candidates. View our ['Communicating Effectively with Your Legislators'](#) flyer and [Candidate Survey](#), and make sure to check out our [Election Guide](#), for a comprehensive list of actions you can take for the 2018 Primary and General Election.



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### Your Election Guide

Primary elections across the U.S. are narrowing the list of candidates who will be on the ballot on Election Day, November 6. To preserve the future of purebred dogs, it's important to identify dog-friendly candidates and use your vote to elect those who will protect the rights of responsible dog owners, exhibitors and breeders. Here are four steps that every dog owner should take during the



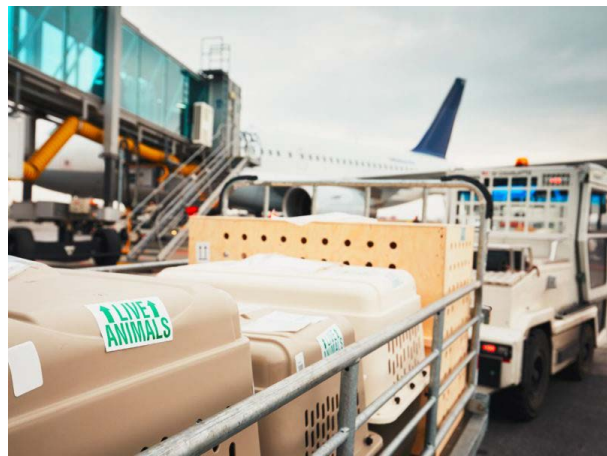
2018 midterm election cycle.

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## AKC Statement Urges New Import Protocols to Protect Pet and Public Health

Every day, thousands of pets are imported into the continental United States for the purpose of sale or transfer in retail or retail rescue markets. According to the American Pet Product Distributors Association (APPA) annual survey, Americans currently own approximately 80 million dogs, and acquire approximately 8 million dogs per year. Even if the per capita rate of demand for pets holds static, population increases alone continue to create a growing demand for pet dogs – more than are currently available in the United States.



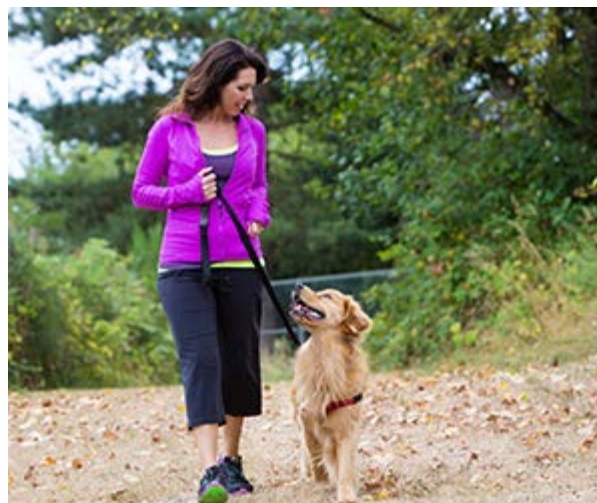
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## AKC Adopts New Legislative Position Statement on Dog Training

Recently, the American Kennel Club has observed a disturbing trend in legislative proposals at the state and local level aimed at

arbitrarily restricting standard, accepted dog training methodologies and approaches. Some of these proposals, such as those observed in New York State and Hillsborough County, Florida, created extensive new licensing requirements for all trainers, established arbitrary and extensive training and paperwork requirements for any dog ever attending even a single training class, including a “drop-in” training class; and broadened the definition of professional trainers subject to licensing to include kennel clubs, dog training clubs and other not-for-profit community centers that provide basic dog training as a community service. Some measures would also designate or allow animal protection groups to arbitrarily determine which training methodologies would be allowed.



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## AKC Adopts New Position Statement on Tethering

The American Kennel Club has seen a troubling increase in proposed anti-tethering laws in states and local municipalities seeking to prevent animal cruelty. AKC shares concerns about abuse and does not tolerate animal cruelty. However, proposals that arbitrarily ban tethering could actually cause harm to some dogs and are unlikely to stop bad actors already in violation of animal welfare laws.



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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

Currently, 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are currently in session, and seven states are in a special legislative session. AKC Government Relations is currently tracking more than 1,860 bills on the federal, state, and local levels. A large number of these bills have been carried over from 2017. Additional bills will be introduced as more legislatures come back into session for the new year. 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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