



Taking Command

A Publication of the AKC Government Relations Department

May 2018

What's New from AKC Government Relations

As many state legislative sessions begin to wind down, it is still extremely important to continue to engage your elected official. This doesn't just mean phone calls and emails about policy. Some of the best ways for a legislator to learn is to experience our world hands on. Consider inviting your legislator to your events, or present them with a club award at a show. They will enjoy the publicity, especially during an election year, and they will get to experience the value of protecting the right to breed, show, and own purpose-bred dogs.



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Successes

The AKC Government Relations' (AKC GR) department recently updated our legislative successes through May 22, 2018. These and other victories have been won in cooperation with AKC federations, clubs, and responsible dog owners and breeders around the country who continue to work tirelessly to promote positive canine legislation in their state and community.



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Flying with Your Pet? Check Your Airline's Policies

Whether you are competing in a show or taking a vacation with your pet, sometimes flying is the most efficient option. But did you know that depending on which airline you take, the policies you must follow could differ drastically? Don't get caught unprepared. If you are flying with a pet it is important that you plan ahead and familiarize yourself with your airline's rules and regulations.



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AKC Announces Georgia Representative David Knight as Legislator of the Year

The American Kennel Club (AKC) announced today that it is honoring Georgia Representative David Knight with the AKC Legislator of the Year award in recognition of his strong advocacy for responsible dog ownership. Representative Knight previously received the award in 2015.



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AKC Announces Winners of Annual Law School Writing Contest

The American Kennel Club® (AKC), the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, is pleased to announce the winners of the Companion Animal Law Writing Competition.

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Save the Date!

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.

More details to come!

Legislative Information and Updates

Currently, 15 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are currently 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. A large number of these bill 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 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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