



# IN SESSION

A K C ' S C O N G R E S S I O N A L N E W S L E T T E R

The American Kennel Club's Newsletter for Members of Congress and their Staff

## PERSPECTIVES

*We're more than champion dogs...  
We're the dog's champion.*

The American Kennel Club (AKC) is a not-for-profit non-partisan organization dedicated to the advancement of purebred dogs as family companions and the health and wellbeing of all dogs. For more than 130 years, AKC has been recognized worldwide as the expert on purebred breeding and all aspects of responsible dog ownership.

The AKC is significantly different from other animal advocates because together with our more than 5,000 clubs, we possess unparalleled knowledge, experience and expertise in the science and practice of canine health, care and breeding.

AKC is very concerned about irresponsible ownership and negligence or cruelty involving any dog. It doesn't matter if a person owns one dog or 100. Whether they breed dogs or not, we believe that *all* dogs deserve kind and loving care.

For this reason, AKC supports strong negligence and cruelty laws (and full enforcement of such laws) that demand responsibility of all dog owners and handlers. We strenuously object to anti-breeder sentiment that ignorantly and incorrectly equates the breeding of purebred dogs with irresponsible ownership. And we are committed to educating the public about the value of responsible dog ownership and responsibly-bred dogs.

The majority of breeders for whom AKC registers dogs are small-scale hobby breeders who play an important role in their local communities and whose expertise and commitment enable others to share in the joy of owning a quality pet. We honor these caring individuals who have devoted

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## Congressional Canine Spotlight – Senator Steve Daines and his “Good Montana Dogs”



Senator Steve Daines and his family were looking for a “good Montana dog” to be a great family companion who could share their love of the great outdoors and the Big Sky Country. After much research on different breeds, they obtained a Miniature American Shepherd from a local breeder.

This high-energy, intelligent, good-natured breed proved a perfect fit for the Daines family. The Senator says they decided as a family to give their dog the “good Montana name” of “Jessie” and immediately Jessie – and the breed – changed their lives.

Four years later the family went back to the same breeder to get “Ruby”, whom they named in honor of Montana’s Ruby River and the dog’s red coloring. Last year, they added a third Miniature American Shepherd to their family. This one is a red merle with blue eyes, so the family decided on the name “Reagan” because of the red, white and blue coloring. All three are registered with the American Kennel Club.

All three of the Daines’ dogs were raised by the same Montana breeder. The Daines family chose this kennel because of the level of personal attention and socialization the dogs receive and the fact that it was connected to a ranch. These aspects of the kennel ensure the dogs plenty of room to run and exercise their herding instincts

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All photos © Office of Senator Steve Daines. Used With Permission.

their lives to preserving the diversity of the breeds and the quality of their bloodlines.

Experience demonstrates that responsible, high quality dog breeding isn't about the number of dogs a person owns or breeds, or whether they breed them in a home environment or a professional kennel setting. The heart of the issue is ensuring that all dogs – regardless of circumstances – have sufficient and breed-appropriate care and conditions (See p. 5 for AKC's Care and Conditions requirements).

Enforcement of negligence and cruelty laws – such as the felony animal cruelty laws now in place in all 50 states – play an important role in stopping bad actors. But shutting down bad actors alone isn't enough. AKC's mission is to *advance* dogs, so this also means advancing those who love and care for them by ensuring they have the ongoing knowledge, education and expertise to be even better dog owners and breeders.

Through programs like AKC's new *Bred with H.E.A.R.T.* (Health, Education, Accountability, Responsibility & Tradition) program, AKC educates, provides resources, and expects those who register their dogs with AKC to maintain a strong ongoing commitment to health testing, continuing education, accountability (including kennel inspections by AKC inspectors, and adherence to our care and conditions policies), responsibility for the health and wellbeing of all puppies, and upholding the AKC's tradition of commitment to healthy, happy purebred dogs. (See p.3 to learn about *Bred with H.E.A.R.T.*)

We invite you to learn more about the AKC's commitment to the dispelling the myths of animal extremism, advancing canine health and the science of animal husbandry, and ensuring a bright future for responsible dog ownership. The AKC Government Relations Department is here to assist you.

All the best,

Sheila Goffe

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Continued from previous page, *Congressional Canine Spotlight – Senator Steve Daines and his “Good Montana Dogs”*

while developing the breed's friendly, devoted personality – all the characteristics the Daines were looking for in a dog suitable for their outdoor Montana lifestyle.

Miniature American Shepherds are known for their high energy, and the Senator confirms that Jessie, Ruby and Reagan all “love activity”. They enjoy running with the Senator's wife Cindy and have participated in parades and other campaign activities. Their favorite activity is enjoying running around the Daines' ranch – especially if a Frisbee is involved.

Senator Daines and his wife love the outdoors and enjoy taking the dogs hiking with them. Just recently, they took Ruby with them on a 10-mile backpacking trip in Montana's Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Ruby not only had her own backpack with food, but, true to her breed's nature, she “herded” everyone on the hike, running from the front to the back to make sure everyone was where she felt they should be.

At age 7, Jessie is described by Senator Daines as the “adult” and “boss”. Ruby and Reagan (ages 3 years and 1 year, respectively) are described as the “clowns”. All three are adored by the family, and even though the Daines' children no



**“Dogs need and deserve attention... They should have owners who are willing to spend time with them and provide them with a safe environment.”**

longer live at home, they still request frequent updates and photos of the dogs. This close bond between the family and their dogs is one of the aspects the Senator believes is essential for any responsible dog owner.

“Dogs need and deserve attention,” Senator Daines explained. “They should have owners who are willing to spend time with them and provide them with a safe environment.” This is so important to the Daines family that if they are travelling, they have someone come stay at their home to be with the dogs.

Senator Daines has had dogs in his life since childhood, including a poodle and Yorkshire Terrier, among others. He believes that anyone looking for a dog must consider a few essential points: “Each dog breed is unique,” Senator Daines said. “It is important for [anyone considering a dog] to understand the breed and your lifestyle.”

Thanks to their research and a great breeder, the Daines have found not just one, but three “good Montana dogs” that are the perfect fit for their family.

## Did You Know?

- The Miniature American Shepherd, as the breed is recognized by the AKC, was developed in California in the 1960's. According to the Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA, the breed was formed by a split from the AKC breed Australian Shepherds and the incorporation of dogs previously known as Miniature Australian Shepherds (or North American Shepherds).
- The breed has been used for herding smaller animals such as goats or sheep, but are also known as excellent companion pets because of their high intelligence, friendly personalities, size, and trainability.
- The Miniature American Shepherd is one of the AKC's newest breeds, being recognized in January 2015.



# AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. Raises the Bar for High Quality Breeders

There has never been a time in Maggie Bullock's life that a dog was not involved.

Before she could even walk, Bullock cuddled with the family's Australian Shepherds. When she started toddling around, the smart herding dogs kept close watch on her.

As she grew up, Aussies were part of the family, helping her father with chores around their Missouri farm and always ready to play a game of fetch with her.

Her father usually bred a litter or two each year, and they were in demand by local farmers and families.

Bullock has continued her father's dedication to this great working breed. For more than 25 years, she and her husband have owned Timberline Kennels and raised Aussies to be wonderful pets and working dogs around the country. Timberline Australian Shepherds have become search & rescue dogs, drug detection dogs, and therapy dogs.

But Bullock's number one goal is producing healthy dogs with loving temperaments that will provide many years of enjoyment to their families.

So when the American Kennel Club launched a new breeder education program earlier this year, Bullock was among the first breeders to enroll in Bred with H.E.A.R.T. (which stands for Health, Education, Accountability, Responsibility and Tradition).

"This program allows customers to know they are getting a great puppy from a great breeder who cares and is dedicated to their breed," Bullock said.

Preparing breeders to produce the healthy, excellent examples of their breeds is the goal of Bred with H.E.A.R.T. (BWH)

The program provides educational material on genetics, canine anatomy, breeding basics, and care and feeding of female dogs and puppies. Breeders can opt to be tested on the materials and receive a course completion certificate upon passing the examinations.

BWH also establishes require-



All photos © Timberline Kennels. Used with permission

ments for health-testing breeding stock. Owners must agree to screen and ensure that the dogs in their breeding programs pass health tests as recommended by their breed's AKC national club. Testing requirements vary according to breed but commonly include screenings conditions such as hip dysplasia, patellar luxation, heart murmurs or and eye issues such as retinal atrophy.

"The public is very concerned about the health and longevity of their canine companions. I want to emphasize that AKC

is taking a leadership role in providing programs to educate dog owners and the dog owning public about best breeding practices," said Susan LaCroix Hamil, chairwoman of the AKC Delegate Canine Health Committee.

Hamil became interested in purebred dogs while showing Quarter Horses in her home state of California. "We always had hound type dogs around the barns. I saw an ad in Town and Country magazine for AKC bloodhounds and fell in love. Since I had AQHA registered horses, it followed that I should have AKC registered dogs and show them as well."

Today, Hamil has bred some of the top Bloodhounds in the country. Her dogs have won multiple Best in Shows and even were featured in the movie "Best in Show."

To show her dedication to breeder education, she signed up for Bred with H.E.A.R.T. soon after the program launched.

"I have a lifetime commitment to the health and welfare of dogs. I am also vitally interested in the educating all dog owners, public officials and the veterinary community about purebred dogs and dog breeding," Hamil said. "Bred with Heart provides that education and information on best breeding practices."

Another important component of BWH is a facilities inspection.



Maggie Bullock and Mike Dissler of Timberline Kennels. This kennel was among the first to enroll in the AKC's Bred with HEART program.



Breeders agree to an on-site inspection by an AKC Field Inspector who takes a close look at the kennel operations to ensure that compliance with AKC's Care & Conditions Policy.

"I am very happy that one of the requirements to participate in the BWH is you have to be inspected by AKC," Bullock said. "We feel that this gives our customers a vote of confidence on just where their puppy came from and the quality it represents."

Breeders who pass the BWH certification can display the AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. logo on their websites, business cards, and kennel offices. They must continue to pursue annual certification through continuing education on breeding practices.

"Those breeders who achieve AKC BWH certification demonstrate their commitment to producing healthy, well-socialized purebred puppies that become valued family companions living long, healthy lives," Hamil said.

## About Bred with H.E.A.R.T.

The American Kennel Club (AKC®) continues its long-standing commitment to advance the health and welfare of all dogs with the launch of its new program Bred with H.E.A.R.T. (Health, Education, Accountability, Responsibility and Tradition)

Modeled after the successful Breeder of Merit program, Bred with H.E.A.R.T. is a new way to engage, encourage and recognize all breeders who meet specific health testing standards and who participate in continuing education. The health testing requirements for each breed are based on the recommendations of the respective Parent Club as documented in their Code of Ethics or in the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals' Canine Health Information Center (CHIC).

"This program is great because it not only requires participants to health test their breeding stock, it provides resources and education which will benefit all breeders, from beginners to experts," says Susan LaCroix Hamil, Chair of the AKC Delegate Canine Health Committee.

The AKC has partnered with famed dog author and Breeding Expert Claudia Waller Orlandi, Ph.D, who has been an AKC Breeder of the Year and is also an AKC judge and former chairman of the Breeders/Judges Education Committee for the Basset Hound Club of America. Ms. Orlandi regularly shares her vast knowledge on dog breeding at seminars and symposiums held around the world.

"Knowledge is power in all phases of our lives," Orlandi said. "The more a breeder knows about the science of breeding healthy

dogs the more they can control canine genetic diseases in their breeding programs."

In order to participate in the Bred with H.E.A.R.T. program, breeders must meet the following criteria:

- Have registered at least one AKC litter within the last 5 years
- Currently be in good standing with the AKC
- Certify that applicable health screens are performed on their breeding stock as recommended by the respective AKC Parent Club and be prepared to supply proof of such compliance upon request
- Agree to comply with the AKC Care and Conditions Policy, including inspection(s) by the American Kennel Club or its duly authorized representative
- Agree to complete AKC-approved and/or AKC-provided continuing breeder education courses annually

"Responsible breeders are always striving to improve their knowledge and the effectiveness of their breeding programs, but it can be difficult to find convenient educational opportunities on the latest breeding best practices," said AKC Vice President Mark Dunn. "Bred with H.E.A.R.T. will help improve the education and capability of all breeders and ensure the happiness and health of all purebred dogs."

**For more information on AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T., please visit**  
[education.akc.org/akcedu](http://education.akc.org/akcedu)



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

## **AKC's Care and Conditions of Dogs Policy**

The Care and Conditions of Dogs Policy reflects the American Kennel Club's values in promoting the responsible ownership and maintenance of dogs. These guidelines are meant as a basis for helping individuals ensure that dog care practices are performed and housing facilities are maintained in a safe, humane and responsible manner.

The guidelines are not intended to be all-inclusive or definitive, but rather are intended to serve as a working basic outline that can be expanded and refined as needed while lending uniform application of this policy. In addition to guidelines set forth in this policy, individuals are expected to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the ownership and maintenance of dogs.

### **Care of Dogs**

- Dogs should have play and exercise in an area sufficient for all dogs housed in the facility to be able to engage in those activities on a daily basis. Exercise area should be a solid surface.
- Dogs must have access to fresh water as appropriate.
- Dogs must have access to fresh food provided at appropriate intervals to maintain a healthy weight.
- Appropriate health care, including routine and preventative care, must be provided for all dogs.
- Dogs should be provided with daily positive human contact and socialization.
- Each dog should have its overall health and behavior assessed daily. Any deviation in health condition must be addressed expeditiously and appropriately.
- Dogs should be free from internal and external parasites.
- Dogs should be afforded regular grooming to ensure health and comfort.
- When euthanasia is necessary, it must always be performed humanely.

### **Kennels and Housing**

- The primary enclosure must be large enough so the dog(s) can sit, stand, lie down, or turn around comfortably, with no overcrowding.
- The primary enclosure shall be constructed and maintained so that dogs are securely confined and does not cause injury to the dogs.
- Protection from adverse or extreme weather conditions must be provided.
- While flooring that provides solid footing is preferred, if perforated or non-solid flooring is used in the primary enclosure, it should be comprised of a material featuring a protective coating, be appropriate for the size and weight of the dog to prevent injury (especially to feet),

and must be kept in good repair. If perforated or non-solid flooring is used, a solid platform of sufficient size should be provided to allow the dog(s) to attain solid footing and to offer a space for resting.

- Facilities must be lighted to provide a regular lighting cycle for the dogs.
- Bedding material made available to dogs should be clean and not pose a risk to the dogs.

### **Operations**

- A sufficient number of staff must be provided to carry out appropriate levels of care and conditions for the number of dogs kept.
- Facility and primary enclosures should be clean, free from debris and odor, and feces should be picked up and disposed of as frequently as necessary so as not to pose a threat to the health of the dog(s).
- Each kennel should maintain an emergency preparedness plan adequate for the type of facility owned and breed(s) of dogs maintained therein.

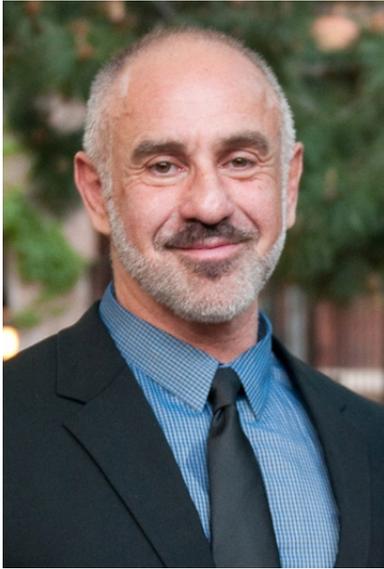
The above is in addition to the policy adopted at the July 1990 Board meeting to notify federal, state or local agencies of unsanitary and/or unhealthy conditions found by AKC Inspectors during inspection of kennels; that the US Department of Agriculture (APHIS) will be notified when such conditions prevail at kennels regulated by that department under the provisions of the U.S. Animal Welfare Act; and that other state/local governmental or humane agencies will be notified when such conditions are observed at kennels not regulated by federal law.

In instances when dog(s) are found in conditions that place them in immediate danger, the Inspector will immediately notify agencies with jurisdiction regarding the danger to the dogs.

During the course of an inspection, if an AKC Inspector determines that an individual is not maintaining his/her dogs or facility in a manner that is compliant with the AKC's Care and Conditions Policy, the individual's AKC privileges may be placed on temporary referral. The individual will be notified, in writing, of specific deficiencies and what steps need to be taken to come into compliance with the Care and Conditions of Dogs Policy. The individual shall be given 45 days to correct deficiencies and request a re-inspection.

In cases where deficiencies are not corrected or re-inspections are not requested, the AKC may proceed with disciplinary action leading to suspension of all AKC privileges.

# The American Kennel Club Appoints Dr. Jerry Klein Chief Veterinary Officer



New York, NY – The American Kennel Club (AKC®) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jerry Klein to Chief Veterinary Officer.

Dr. Klein brings with him over 35 years of experience in the Veterinary field. Currently, he is the Supervising Veterinarian at the Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center. He is an active member of several professional organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, the Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society, as well as The Afghan Hound Club of America and Fox Terrier Club of Chicago. Dr. Klein has also been a licensed judge for The American Kennel Club for 30 years, judging on both the national and international levels.

In his role as Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Klein will act as the AKC's official spokesperson and policy leader surrounding the preexisting and enhanced health commitments of the AKC. He will serve as the organization's principle authority on canine health, veterinary policy and initiate relevant wellness campaigns. Dr. Klein will report to Jim Crowley, Executive Secretary.

"We are proud to welcome Dr. Jerry Klein to the AKC in his new consultancy role," said Dennis Sprung, President and CEO. "Jerry's demonstrated expertise in canine health and dedication to the health and welfare of our trusted companions will be a valuable asset to our organization. I look forward to his many important contributions."

## Five Heroic Dogs Honored with AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence

The AKC® Humane Fund has announced the winners of the 16th annual AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE). These awards commemorate five loyal, hard-working dogs that have significantly impacted the lives of their owners and people in their communities.

One award is presented in five categories. This year's winners include a Military Working Dog that protects Presidents, a Great Dane that helps his young owner walk, a therapy dog that comforts military members and their loved ones, a human remains detection dog that brings closure to families and a show dog that serves as an ambassador for purebred dogs.

"Whether they serve as uniformed service, search and rescue, therapy, service, or exemplary companion dogs, each ACE nomination we receive is a testimony to the loyalty, devotion and strength dogs give to us," said AKC Spokesperson Gina DiNardo. "Each dog's devotion to their work and the impact they make in their community is an inspiration to dog lovers everywhere."

All of the ACE recipients receive \$1,000 to be awarded to a pet-related charity of their choice, a one year pet insurance policy from Pet Partners, Inc. and an engraved sterling silver medallion to be presented at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Orlando, Florida on Saturday and Sunday, December 12-13, 2015.



Pablo

This year's ACE winners are:

**Uniformed Service K-9:** "Pablo," a Belgian Malinois handled by Greg Madrid of Albany, Georgia

"K9 Pablo" is a nine-year-old Belgian Malinois Military Working Dog (MWD), who is a certified PEDD (Patrol/Explosive Detection Dog) by the US Air Force, and is assigned to the Marine Corps Police Department in Albany, Georgia. Pablo regularly serves on Secret Service details for visiting dignitaries. In the past year, Pablo has provided protection for President Obama, Vice President Biden, Former President Clinton and Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Pablo also regularly attends Sunday morning church service at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia to help protect Former President Carter while he teaches Bible Study. Pablo participates in nearly every career day at the local schools, and many non-profit and charity events in his local community.



George

**Service Dog:** "George," a Great Dane owned by Rachel Burton of Woburn, Massachusetts

"George" comes from the Service Dog Project, which trains dogs to help the mobility impaired. The Great Dane was paired with Bella, a 10-year-old girl with a rare genetic disorder called Morquio Syndrome. This disorder makes mobility exceptionally difficult and requires Bella to undergo many operations. Before she met George,

Bella used a wheelchair or crutches to move around, but George has given Bella the strength and determination to walk and take part in activities she otherwise would not have been able to do. George and Bella have an inseparable bond and he will do anything for her. He has helped her gain confidence, independence and happiness.



Wynd

**Therapy Dog:** “Wynd,” a Rottweiler owned by Renice Zimmerman of Yorktown, Virginia

For her owner Renice, “Wynd” is an once-in-a-lifetime therapy dog. Wynd has served on the therapy dog team for military surviving family members at The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) National Seminar in DC for the past three Memorial Days and has volunteered at the Survivor Outreach Service booth at military events

many times. Wynd is also a regular at the Hampton Veterans Hospital Domiciliary program, interacting and working closely with veterans with PTSD and substance abuse, and visits at the assisted living center at the VA hospital as well. During the school year, Wynd visits Suffolk Humane Society’s BARKS reading program, encouraging a love of reading and helping many kids overcome their fear of dogs.



Ty

**Search and Rescue Dog:** “Ty,” a German Shepherd Dog handled by Melissa Frye of Southport, Florida

“Ty,” officially known as K-9 Ty Ty Road RN CGC, is an eight-year-old German Shepherd Dog trained in human remains detection. Over the span of his six year career, Ty has become the go-to K-9 in his department for recovery searches, helping to bring closure to families that have lost loved ones. He has been deployed on over 60 missions with great success, particularly in his specialty of water recovery. Ty is also cross-trained for live find search and disaster work, and serves as the Bay County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue public relations dog. He’s a natural with all ages and eats up the attention he gets after putting on demonstrations.

**Exemplary Companion Dog:** “Mufasa,” a Bernese Mountain Dog owned by Kristen and Robin Greenwood of Bel Air, Maryland

“Mufasa,” who won Best of Breed at the Westminster Kennel Club



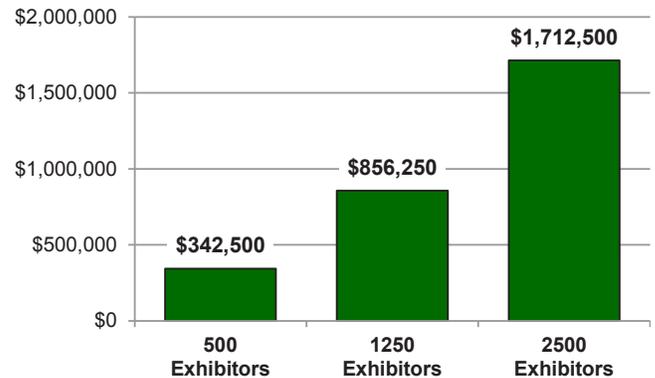
Mufasa

Dog Show in 2014, is as an ambassador to his breed, purebred dogs and the American Kennel Club. This Bernese Mountain Dog greets visitors to his owners’ dog wash business (where he has a regular fan club) and his presence alone helps the local community to learn about AKC and responsible breeders. As a well-trained, excellent example of his breed, Mufasa helps to open the lines of communication about responsible breeders, and how these breeders are great ways to add a healthy and happy dog to the family. Mufasa shows that most “show dogs” are first and foremost well-loved family companions

# The Economic Benefits of AKC® Dog Events

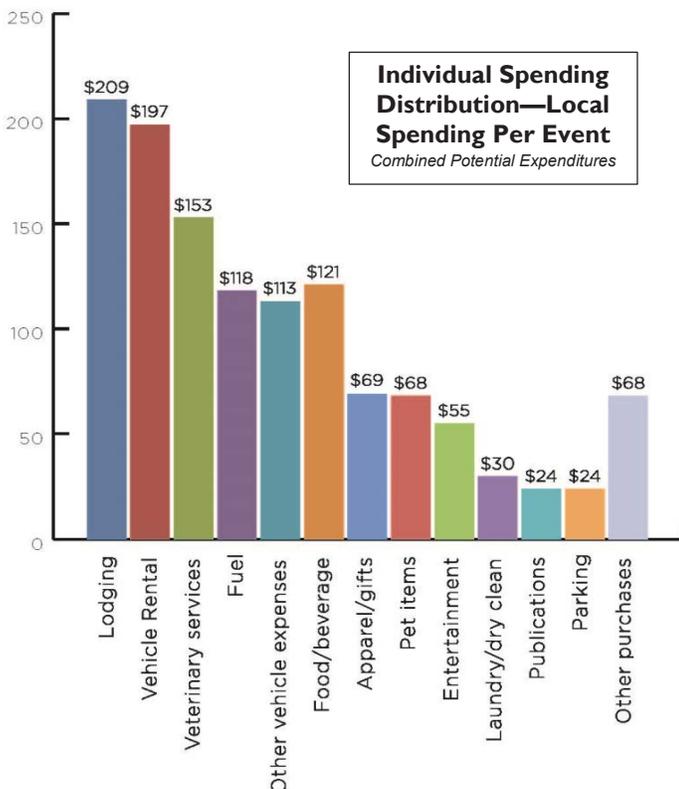


## Potential local economic impact of American Kennel Club dog events: **MORE THAN \$1.7 MILLION**



### About the study:

Our goal was to identify spending in local communities by dog lovers who attend, participate in, and host American Kennel Club events. An online survey was sent to 84,000 event participants; more than 14,000 responded.



### AKC dog events provide significant positive economic benefits to the host community:

- Participants spend an average of \$685 per event in communities hosting AKC dog events.
- Local spending by participants in an AKC event can inject more than \$1.7 million into the community.
- Most participants travel more than 100 miles to get to AKC events and spend at least two to three nights in the communities where events are held. More than half bring traveling companions with them.
- The AKC licenses and sanctions more than 22,000 events across the country every year, including dog shows, agility and obedience trials, performance events, and much more.
- AKC dog events are hosted by more than 5,000 clubs, which are not-for-profit volunteer organizations.
- Nationwide, AKC dog events have the potential to generate more than \$1.5 billion a year in local spending.

### In addition to participant spending, communities benefit from spending by the event-giving club, which may include:

- Lodging, Meals, and Transport for Event Officials and Judges
- Facility Rental, Fees, Permits
- Rental Equipment, Tents, Chairs, Tables
- On-site Security, EMT, Veterinarian
- Local Vendors and Concessions
- Catering
- Flowers
- Trophies
- Advertising

