



**American  
Kennel Club**<sup>®</sup>



## **Economic Impact of AKC Dog Events in West Virginia**

The American Kennel Club (AKC) was established in 1884 to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. We now represent more than 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including **28** clubs in the state of West Virginia.

The AKC sanctions thousands of dog events each year, which generate significant economic benefits to local communities in addition to the millions of dollars AKC dog owners in West Virginia spend annually on their dogs.

Here are the statistics for the State of West Virginia over the past three years:

**2015:** AKC licensed and sanctioned 76 events in the state of West Virginia, in which more than 5,500 dogs participated.

**2016:** AKC licensed and sanctioned 59 events in the state of West Virginia, in which more than 5,900 dogs participated.

**2017:** AKC licensed and sanctioned 47 events in the state of West Virginia, in which more than 4,700 dogs participated.

The AKC conducts ongoing research regarding the economic impact of AKC events in localities throughout the state, as well as of AKC registered dogs in the state. Surveys demonstrate that exhibitors at AKC conformation dog shows spend an average of \$685 per show weekend. This means spending by AKC dog show exhibitors for a show weekend could inject more than \$1.7 million into the local economy. And because AKC dog shows are an educational and family-friendly event, large spectator gates can generate additional revenues for cities and towns statewide. For more information or information about the impact of dog shows in other states, visit the AKC Legislative Action Center ([www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org)).