



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

AKC KENNEL INSPECTION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BACKGROUND

The American Kennel Club® is the only all-breed dog registry in the United States with an ongoing routine kennel inspection program. The AKC has a dedicated team of experts who visit kennels to educate breeders who register with the AKC, while ensuring the proper care and conditions of dogs and verify that breeders are maintaining accurate records for their dogs. The AKC Kennel Inspections Program has been proven to be a successful tool in promoting responsible dog ownership and breeding. The AKC's *Care and Conditions of Dogs* policy, along with record-keeping and identification requirements, is the cornerstone of the AKC Inspections program and makes clear that the AKC will **not tolerate substandard treatment of dogs.**



THE NUMBERS

Since 2000, the AKC has conducted approximately **80,000** inspections throughout the United States. The AKC's inspection protocol applies equally to all AKC breeders.

PURPOSE OF INSPECTION

The AKC conducts inspections of breeders who register litters with AKC to ensure that care and conditions of the dogs and the facility in which they are housed are in compliance with AKC's extensive *Care and Conditions policy* and to review records in order to maintain the integrity of its registry.

During an inspection, the care and conditions of dogs and the facility in which they are housed are examined. This includes ensuring that dogs have access to adequate food and water, are in good physical condition, and have access to daily exercise. Dogs must also be supplied with daily positive human contact and socialization. AKC also makes certain that the facility is constructed in such a way as to **maintain the safety of the dogs**, and that it is clean and of a sufficient size so that overcrowding does not exist.

The registrant's individual dog ownership records, breeding records, and litter records are also reviewed to make certain that the registration applications that have been received from the breeder are properly supported. DNA samples may also be taken under certain circumstances to check parentage of the dogs on site and ensure the integrity of the AKC registry.

EDUCATION

AKC's Executive Field Staff educate registrants about the AKC's *Care and Conditions* policy, its record-keeping and dog identification requirements, and other AKC programs.

If the inspection determines that the breeder needs to make improvements to their record-keeping and dog identification practices, the breeder is provided with information and recommendations on how to make improvements so they can achieve compliance.



ENFORCEMENT

If an individual fails to consent to an inspection or fails to correct areas identified as needing improvement during an inspection, the AKC will suspend the individual's ability to use AKC registration services and/or compete in AKC events. Typically, a suspension also includes a fine. AKC privileges will only be reinstated after an inspection is conducted to confirm that the breeder is in compliance with AKC's rules and policies. **If unsanitary and/or unhealthy conditions are found during the inspection, proper federal, state, and local agencies will be notified.**