



# Protect Your Rights! Become an AKC Legislative Liaison

## Who are Legislative Liaisons?

Legislative Liaisons are dog club members who follow local and state-level dog policy issues and provide an important communications link between their clubs and the AKC Government Relations Department.

## Does our club need a Legislative Liaison?



Yes! Every AKC club benefits from having a legislative contact. Legislative Liaisons help the AKC, dog clubs, and individual purebred fanciers work together to efficiently and effectively address legislative issues.

## What do Legislative Liaisons do?

*Legislative Liaisons help their clubs influence local, state, and federal legislative issues affecting purebred dogs and their owners. Their responsibilities include:*

- Monitoring their local news and staying aware of issues which may impact our sport.
- Alerting the AKC to pending legislative issues in their communities or states.
- Presenting the views and interests of the purebred dog fancy to lawmakers, other citizens, and news media.
- Receiving materials, updates, and advice from the AKC Government Relations Department and distributing information to fellow club members.
- Organizing and motivating club members to become active in the legislative process, and encouraging other interested fanciers to help advance legislation that will benefit purebred dog owners and breeders.
- Sharing their clubs' experiences and expertise with government officials, members of the community, and other interested fanciers.
- Preparing their clubs for action should a legislative initiative arise that requires input from purebred dog owners and breeders.

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## How does AKC's Government Relations Department help?

- Visit the Legislative Action Center and toolbox ([www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org)) to access advocate resources, including: Legislative Alerts, blog posts, brochures, and other vital information. Be sure to check back often, as we are continuously adding new items.
- Free information packets, position statements, and same legislation created and distributed by the department to help keep Legislative Liaisons informed.
- *Taking Command* e-newsletter and email updates keep Legislative Liaisons up-to-date on canine legislative issues occurring around the country.
- Assistance contacting other liaisons and federations of dog clubs that will share their experiences in different areas of canine legislation.

## How can I become a Legislative Liaison?

*Check to see if your club has a liaison or legislative committee. If so, volunteer to assist the involved members. If not:*

- Volunteer. Explain to your club officers what this position means, and ask that the club either elect or appoint a liaison.
- Let the AKC know. Have a club officer send a note on club stationary with the new liaison's name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address to the address below.

**Questions? Contact AKC Government Relations for more information.**



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