

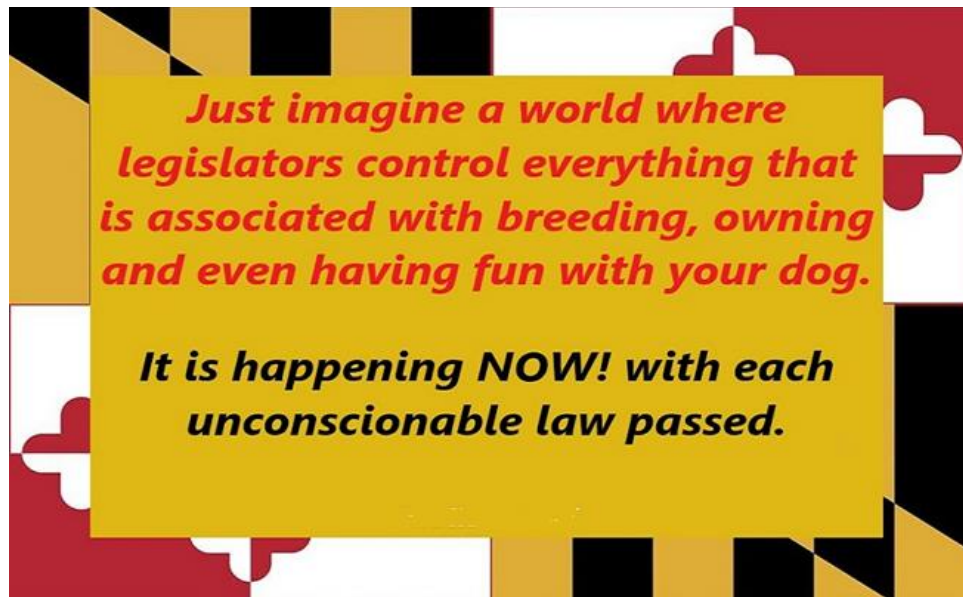


RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS OF MARYLAND, INC.

Vol 2, Issue 1 – January 2020



The 2020 Maryland General Assembly is officially back in session.
The 2020 Session is scheduled – January 8-April 6, 2020



What is happening in our State of Maryland?

A law may be good on the surface. But how will those enforcing a law or regulation be interpreting it? This is how overreach happens. Therefore, more laws aren't needed.

What happens in one state can easily happen in others.

2019 MD, Prince George's County – Prince George's County made numerous changes to its animal control code. AKC Government Relations and the RDO-MD has expressed concerned with several provisions, including possible mandatory sterilization or a five-year ownership ban for minor infractions. Despite support for a repeal from many groups including AKC and RDO-MD, the county also decided to keep the breed-specific laws in place.

Currently there are two bills involving K-9's that are being introduce. Neither are concerning at this point.

Animal Shelters – Standards of Operation MD HB57

Summary

Requiring a certain animal shelter to conform certain protocols with certain provisions of law; providing that certain provisions do not apply to an animal experiencing irremediable physical suffering; requiring an animal shelter to take reasonable steps to achieve a save rate of 90% of impounded animals; requiring an animal shelter to make certain animals available to be reclaimed by an owner for at least a certain number of days; requiring an animal shelter to make a reasonable effort to identify an impounded animal; etc.

Local Government – Animal Control Facilities – Adoption Fee Waiver for Veterans (Pets for Vets Act of 2020)

MD SB128

Summary

Requiring an animal control facility operated by a county or municipality to waive the adoption fee for a dog or cat for a veteran who presents a valid driver's license or identification card that includes a notation of veteran status; authorizing an animal control facility to limit the number of adoption fee waivers granted to an individual under the Act to one dog and one cat within a 6-month period; and applying the Act to all counties and municipalities.

Why Should Breeders Care About Canine Legislation? These are some of the topics that we monitor in our State.

Each year, AKC Government Relations (GR) sees an increase in the number and variety of proposals and legislation that could impact your dogs, kennel and breeding program. The **Responsible Dog Owners of Maryland, Inc. (RDO-MD)** works closely with AKC Government Relations to help interpret legislation, and how and where we might best work within our State of Maryland to affect change or even kill a bill.



As canine legislation and regulations become increasingly complex, the devil is in the details. Just the use of words such as “*and* versus *or*” and “*may* versus *shall*” in a bill can have significant consequences for dogs and dog owners. AKC GR’s comments and action on legislative issues are based on analysis of the details of each individual proposal, in

accordance with AKC's policy statements and what is in the best interest of dogs. The AKC also works to support positive legislation that protects dogs and preserves the rights of owners to own, breed, compete, and enjoy their dogs.

Here are just a few examples of issues AKC Government Relations are seeing around the country that impact all of us as breeders:

Breeding Restrictions – As the rescue and “adopt don't shop” movements continue to permeate the media, legislators are encouraged by activists to enact increasingly strict and arbitrary regulations on breeders in an attempt, they believe, to improve the lives of dogs. Common restrictions often seen in these bills include defining a “commercial” kennel based solely on the number of intact dogs owned rather than actual commerce and sales; one-size-fits-all engineering (building and logistics) requirements for kennels (including arbitrary temperature – regardless of breed or age), and even legal mandates on what are your dog must be for breeding.

Mandatory Spay/Neuter – These proposals are particularly common at the county and municipal levels, where lawmakers are seeking an “easy solution” to shelter population issues, or in some cases, a misguided belief that this will address at-large dogs and other behavioral problems. The proposals may include a mandatory spay/neuter of all dogs 6 months of age and older, with occasionally an exception for “show dogs” (but usually it is not clear how this applies to dogs not being actively shown), or an exception for those who are willing to purchase an expensive permit (which often includes a host of other regulations).

Breed-Specific Laws – These laws and restrictions continue to appear most commonly at the local levels. While they often include restrictions, outright bans, or special regulations for those who own certain breeds they consider “pit bulls,” we are also seeing several instances where they define a “pit bull” based on appearances (i.e. muscular body, tail that tapers at the end, pointed ears, etc.). One state bill (defeated by the AKC) in 2015 sought to regulate anyone who owned a dog that weighed more than 50 pounds.

These are just a few examples of the laws and regulations being introduced every day across the United States that can impact your dogs and breeding program.

How Does AKC Government Relations and RDO-MD Help Breeders?

Getting involved in advocacy and politics can be daunting, but we are here to help! AKC Government Relations exists to come alongside RDO-MD and you so we do not have to fight these issues alone.

AKC GR helps with talking points, data, sample letters, and a wide variety of other resources. When an issue does arise, we can help, let us know! The AKC GR team is comprised of government relations experts with decades of experience who can help analyze a bill and develop effective talking points and strategy. They can also send targeted alerts through federations like RDO-MD to engage other breeders and clubs in your area to join in communicating with the lawmakers and strengthening the voice for dogs.

AKC GR initiatives include regional legislative conferences throughout the country, and regional legislative analyst outreach representatives have been or are being deployed in the field to directly help constituents in the Southeast, West Coast, and Northeast Regions of the United States. Having personnel in the field provide assistance for legislative liaisons, helps establish new relationships with decision makers and provides an expert AKC resource for public policy and local events.

Your Help is Needed! Please read & respond!



WHAT COMMUNITY IMPACT HAS YOUR CLUB HAD?

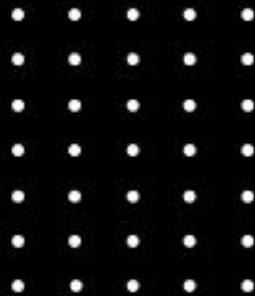
RDO –MD is meeting Maryland Legislators on Wednesday, February 4th.

RDO-MD wants to let MD Legislators know how AKC clubs impact our communities. Please send us what community events and education your club has done or are planning to do. Great club advertising!

Not an RDO-MD member? Contact us today!

Deadline: February 14th please

<https://responsibledogownersofmaryland.org/>



Know a MD Legislator that is supporting our mission?

RDO-MD wats to know about them. Please submit their name and a short paragraph of why you would like to see this legislator recognized by the RDO-MD. Ultimately the "Legislator of the Year" will be chosen from these candidates. Send to Bekki Pina, kaije1127@yahoo.com

Coming Soon!



Meetups

This year RDO-MD is planning an AKC Meetup this summer. Not sure yet if it will be a "Wags & Wine" or "Pups and Pints."

Last year our "Wags & Wine" was a fun success.
Annual Meeting

Stay tuned for Details!



2nd Annual

AKC Canines at the Capital

Mark your Calendars – March 4, 2020 –
10:00 am - 2:00 p.m,

RDO-MD will be promoting responsible dog ownership to Maryland Legislators

Available? please contact olbay101@aol.com

Dog Fair-Live on the Track!



August 27, 2019, 6pm - 9pm

2200 York Road
Lutherville Timonium, Maryland 21093

Agility • AKC Rally • Lure Course Demo
Agility Demo • Rally Demo • Fly Ball Demo
Disc Dog Demo • Meet the Breeds
AKC Junior Showcase Demos

2020

This event will be bigger and better!
Everyone is invited to participate
Club & Individual Breed tables will be
available at no cost.

Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 6-9 p.m.
Information? Contact - Alisa Matricciani
aussiedogX3@gmail.com

Welcome New Members:

Pat Burgee, Baltimore County KC
Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club

Join Now!



Help us make a difference!

“The road to OUR heart is paved with paw prints.”



Financial Report: Checking Account Balance: **\$1,422.10**

Effective the end of December 31, 2019.

“When I needed a hand, I found your paw.”

Key expenses for 2019 include:

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2019-2020 RDO-MD Officers & Directors

President	Mary Lou Olszewski
Vice President	Hal Happersett
Treasurer	Martin Del Prince
Recording Secretary	Kelly Edwards
Corresponding Secretary	Bekki Pina
Director	Corissa Fanning
Director	Alisa Matricciani

Time sure does fly! It has now been two-years since RDO-MD has been incorporated.



RDO-MD appreciates all the AKC Clubs and individuals in Maryland.....that continue to support our mission of responsible dog ownership in our great State of Maryland.

You are invited to join our RDO-MD management team.....this year we will be looking for individuals who would serve as President & Vice President.

Nomination Process: All candidates need to be nominated. The Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the RDO-MD BOD by February 15 each year. This process will adhere to Article IV, Section 4 of the RDO-MD By-Laws

The Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of candidates to members by April 1st

Prior to May 15th additional nominations may be made by written petition.

Recording Secretary shall notify members of additional nominations on or before June 15th.

If no additional nominations are received on or before June 15th the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting but no later than July 15th.

RDO-MD Needs You!

Contact: kaije1127@yahoo.com

To express your interest.

Thank you!



RDOOFMD@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RDOofMD/>

www.responsibledogownersofmaryland.org