



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB



IN SESSION

AKC'S CONGRESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

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

PERSPECTIVES

As you head back to your district for August recess, we hope you will have a chance to rest and recuperate from the busy session—at least a little—before heading out on the campaign trail.

As you spend more time with constituents in the coming month, you'll likely hear about local issues that don't always percolate up to Washington. Dog issues can fit in this category.

The AKC has a lot of experience in helping jurisdictions—large and small—find appropriate solutions for dog-related issues. The AKC supports strong nuisance ordinances in communities, strong enforcement of negligence and cruelty laws in all 50 states, and strong enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Often, well-meaning jurisdictions seek one-size-fits-all legislative solutions where a more nuanced approach may be needed. Mandatory spay/neuter (see Issue Analysis, p. 4), breed bans and ownership limits laws are among commonly proposed policies that are overly broad and can hurt responsible dog owners and breeders.

Most of the dog-related issues that crop up in communities are the result of irresponsible dog ownership. This is why AKC and its over 4,600 kennel clubs nationwide dedicate themselves to educating the public about

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Bruin feels right at home in Congressman Jerry Lewis' office

PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JERRY LEWIS

Congressional Canine Spotlight- Congressman Jerry Lewis and "Bruin"

In each issue of In Session, AKC profiles a dog-loving member of the Capitol community. This issue features Congressman Jerry Lewis (CA-41)

“There are three members of our family: [my wife] Arlene, Bruin, and me,” Congressman Jerry Lewis explained when asked about Bruin, his Bichon Frise/Poodle mix.

Lewis, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations, obtained the dog in 1999 from a breeder in College Park, Maryland. He thought the

dog looked like a small, white bear, and thus declared him “my UCLA Bruin” (named after the university’s mascot). They have been inseparable ever since, and Bruin accompanies the Congressman to Capitol Hill and on trips back home to California’s 41st District.

Both Bichons and Poodles are

Continued on next page

Join Your Community in Supporting Responsible Dog Ownership!



ROBERT YOUNG FOR AKC

hosting local Responsible Dog Ownership Days.

These fun, family-friendly events educate members of your constituency about their rights and responsibilities as dog owners. Each event is unique and includes opportunities to learn about dogs, meet different dog breeds and interact with local dog experts to find the right breed for your family.

Some include agility demonstrations, AKC Canine Good Citizen testing, microchip clinics, and a variety of dog care and training

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responsible dog ownership. We provide free school programs, community events, educational curricula and other resources to help educate local citizens. Each September, the AKC and AKC kennel clubs sponsor Responsible Dog Ownership Day events throughout the country (see story, page 1). All of these activities are carried out by responsible owners and breeders who volunteer their time and effort for the wellbeing of dogs—and the wellbeing of their communities.

Our dogs and our communities are an incredibly important part of everyday life for us as Americans. Sometimes, these relationships are truly extraordinary, as in the case of our brave servicemen and women who train and handle military working dogs throughout the world. The AKC staff recently had the opportunity to express our appreciation by conducting a care-package drive to collect items needed by these special teams (see story, p. 3). We are proud to have participated in this project and can think of no better way to celebrate our love of dogs, our nation, and our right to be responsible dog owners and breeders.

All the best,

Sheila Goffe
Director of Government Relations
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P.S. Please join us at Pet Night on Capitol Hill on September 14!

AKC Government Relations Department

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www.akc.org/canine_legislation



AKC MISSION STATEMENT

The AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

Continued from page 1, "Congressman Jerry Lewis"



PHOTO COURTESY OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN JERRY LEWIS

Bruin enjoys playing on the Capitol lawn

active breeds that require regular exercise, and Bruin is no exception. He and the Congressman walk to work together every day during session and Bruin loves to play with visitors at Lewis' Capitol Hill office.

"Bruin is so popular that when [visitors] come in they ask to play with him before they ask to see me!" the Congressman exclaimed.

Bruin has the ability to charm everyone he meets, regardless of rank or prominence. Lewis recalled when he was Chairman of the Appropriations Defense Subcommittee that military generals coming to meet with him would enjoy meeting the lovable dog. In fact, they liked Bruin so much that his photo was featured in an issue of *Defense News*, a prominent military and government

news periodical.

When not greeting visitors, Bruin enjoys interacting with fellow California dogs Archie (owned by a staff member from Congressman Ed Royce's office) and Congressman Ken Calvert's dog Cali. Although some of Congressman Lewis' staff will occasionally bring dogs to work, they claim that "Bruin is the top dog in our office."

Bruin is not the first dog owned by the Congressman. His first dog as a child was "Princess Coachella Pat", an English Bulldog who, according to Lewis, "early in her life...did well in dog shows."

The Congressman strongly believes that owners should be responsible for their pets and that dogs "should absolutely be a part of an owner's family". He is especially concerned about stray and rescue dogs and ensuring they get proper care and good homes. He would like to see a

greater focus on improving the care of stray dogs, and believes that shelters and rescue organizations should always conduct "a careful review of prospective owners" to ensure the dogs are placed in the right homes.

A dog can bring enormous benefits to the lives of those it encounters. Bruin's presence in Congressman Lewis' office is tangible proof of this, as he explained: "He provides joy and calm for everyone."

"Dogs should absolutely be a part of an owner's family"

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are over 30 million mixed-breed dogs in America. Almost 40 percent of AKC-registered purebred dog owners also own a mixed-breed dog.
- In 2009, the AKC launched Canine Partners, a program that enables spayed/neutered mixed-breed and other dogs not eligible for AKC purebred registration to receive special benefits and participate in AKC companion dog events such as obedience and agility. More than 4,000 AKC events are now open to mixed-breed dogs.
- For more information on AKC Canine Partners, visit www.akc.org and click on "Mixed Breeds."

Continued from page 1, "Responsible Dog Ownership"

education opportunities. Many also include raffles, kids' art contests, and booths by local groups working to promote dog health, safety, and responsible ownership.

Many clubs opt to host their events in conjunction with local animal shelters and rescues to educate the community about responsible ownership, adoption, and dog-related community activities.

These events are usually well-attended and often attract the attention of local

media. Over 200 events have already been registered for this September, and more are being added daily. We invite you to consider attending a Responsible Dog Ownership Day event in your community to learn what local residents are doing to promote responsible dog ownership!

LEARN MORE

To find a Responsible Dog Ownership Day in your area, visit www.akc.org/RDOD/Events or contact the AKC Government Relations Department at (919) 816-3720 or doglaw@akc.org.

AKC Community Events Team Supports Military Dog Teams



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. WAR DOGS ASSOCIATION

The United States military has relied on the skills, loyalty, and bravery of its working dogs for generations. Since September 11, 2001, the U.S. armed forces have significantly increased the number of military working dogs. The armed forces continue to deploy teams of dogs and handlers throughout the world to serve in security, bomb and weapons detection, tracking, and many other essential roles. Many such teams are serving on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan for multiple tours of duty to help protect soldiers and local citizens.

These dogs and handlers have increasingly captured the attention of military leadership for their amazing work. As a result, the number of dogs being deployed has increased, along with the need for essential supplies for both the dogs and their handlers.

The American Kennel Club Community Events Team, which is comprised of AKC employees in the Raleigh Operations

Center, was moved by the work of these brave handlers and dogs and organized a company-wide charity drive called "Project 7-4" (since it was based around the Fourth of July) to send much-needed items directly to these military teams.

The United States War Dog Association provided the names of dog teams currently deployed and a list of requested supplies. Employees sponsored boxes and filled them with items for both the military handlers and dogs, along with personal notes of thanks, photos of them with their dogs, and in some cases drawings from their children.

In total, AKC staff collected 150 care packages for these brave handlers and their dogs and raised all the money necessary to ship them directly to the soldiers' current stations overseas. In North Carolina, the participation among staff was enormous – with an average of 1 box collected for every 2 employees. The AKC was pleased to work with the U.S. War Dogs Association to support these brave men, women and dogs performing crucial roles for the U.S. military throughout the world.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The AKC Community Events Team, comprised of AKC employees from the Raleigh, NC office, was founded in 2000. For the past 10 years, the team has organized a variety of charitable drives and participated in numerous community events.
- AKC community events projects have included collecting items for local food banks and animal shelters, participating in community festivals, and raising money for numerous causes including St. Jude's Children's Hospital, cancer research, and holiday gifts for underprivileged children.

Congressman Jones Visits AKC Operations Center in Support of War Dogs Effort



ROBERT BURNS FOR AKC

Congressman Walter Jones (NC-3) visited the AKC Operations Center in Raleigh, NC, on Thursday, July 8th, after hearing about the American Kennel Club's effort to send much-needed supplies to war dogs and handlers deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Called Project 7-4, the AKC Community Events Team asked employees in each department to fill as many flat-rate shipping boxes as possible with supplies from a list provided by the US War Dog Association. With so many dog lovers

involved, the project took off quickly! Due to some friendly inter-departmental competition, requests for shipping boxes escalated and departmental store rooms were filled with bones, toiletries and Doggles (canine goggles).

Congressman Jones, who was responsible for introducing legislation to authorize the establishment of a national war dog monument, greeted employees and their dogs as he toured the AKC building. His visit concluded with a meet and greet with members of the Community Events Team and senior management.

"I had no idea the AKC was involved in so many wonderful efforts!" the Congressman shared. He encouraged the AKC to continue to support those – both humans and dogs – who are willing to pay the ultimate price for America's freedom. "I am so impressed with what the AKC is doing that I am going to speak about it on the floor of Congress."

Reprinted from akc.org.

Editor's Note: Representative Jones' floor speech is available in the Congressional Record for July 15, 2010.

CAN YOU IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT DOGS?



If we spay and neuter all dogs or restrict all breeding, where will it lead?

AKC works for responsible dog ownership and responsible canine legislation. We can't imagine a world without dogs — can you?

*For more information visit www.akc.org/canine_legislation
or contact doglaw@akc.org*

www.akc.org



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Issue Analysis: Why Mandatory Spay/Neuter Laws are Ineffective

No dog should ever go unloved or unwanted. Stories of dogs being relinquished to shelters break the hearts of every dog lover.

These issues are the result of a variety of causes. National research organizations have reported that the majority of unwanted dogs in the United States come from owners who are unable or unwilling to train, socialize, and care for their dogs.

As part of encouraging responsible dog ownership, the American Kennel Club (AKC) urges pet owners to spay and neuter their dogs if they do not want to participate in AKC dog shows or performance events or use them in a responsible breeding program. The AKC supports public education programs that teach future pet-buyers and help current

mandatory sterilization policies.

Identifying the Problem

Although MSN may sound like a logical solution to the problem of unwanted dogs, they only address a symptom of the problem. A truly effective solution will require addressing this larger issue.

National studies and anecdotal experiences of shelters across the country demonstrate that economics also plays a significant role in animal relinquishment. Unemployment, tighter budgets, and other monetary concerns including unexpected relocation all contribute to families to giving up pets.

As communities recognize that there are irresponsible dog owners who do not properly train their dogs and who allow

basic animal control laws they are already tasked with enforcing.

Many communities that enact MSN laws find that enforcement can be expensive. A mandatory spay/neuter law enacted in Dallas, Texas, in 2008 resulted in a 22 percent increase in animal control expenditures, as well as an overall decrease in licensing projected to reduce revenue by \$400,000. The City of Santa Cruz, California, experienced a 56% cost increase over the first 12 years of implementation. The City of Los Angeles' budget ballooned from \$6.7 million to \$18 million following implementation. Similar increases in animal control costs following the establishment of mandatory spay/neuter laws have been experienced in communities

“Nearly one in every two families in the United States has a dog, generating a significant demand for well-bred puppies.”



BULLDOG- ISABELLE FRANCAIS FOR AKC

dog owners understand the great responsibility that comes with dog ownership.

Some policymakers and groups assert that the solution is mandatory spay/neuter (MSN) laws. The AKC disagrees. Unlike voluntary programs, mandatory spay/neuter laws have proven to be ineffective. Numerous studies have found they result in significant cost increases and many other unintended consequences for responsible dog owners, local shelters, and the community at large – *without addressing the real underlying issue of irresponsible dog ownership.*

For these reasons, the American Kennel Club is joined by numerous organizations including the American Veterinary Medical Association, the National Animal Interest Alliance, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in opposing

their dogs to roam or otherwise create a nuisance, it becomes increasingly evident that most problems stem from owner irresponsibility. Mandatory spay/neuter laws will not address these problems; however, they will punish law-abiding citizens who wish to keep an intact animal, while those who already neglect their responsibilities will likely continue that behavior.

Unintended Consequences

Mandatory spay/neuter laws also have a tendency to create problems for communities because they are very difficult to enforce and can be easily evaded by avoiding dog licensing.

MSN laws also greatly increase the workload for animal control officers, who must now also verify the sterilization of residents' pets in addition to the

throughout the country from Colorado to North Carolina to Washington.

Mandatory spay/neuter policies prove expensive for the public as well. When these laws are established, many cities find that their publicly-funded low-cost spay/neuter programs cannot meet the demand, which forces dog owners to pay full price for the procedure. This can be a huge financial burden for low-income dog owners, who may ultimately be forced to choose between harboring an illegal unsterilized dog and turning it over to a shelter because they cannot afford the procedure.

Unintended broader public health and safety consequences should also be considered. The American Veterinary Medical Association's "Dog and Cat Population Control" policy notes that the mandatory nature of these laws may

Continued on next page

result in pet owners avoiding rabies vaccinations and other general veterinary care in order to hide their lack of compliance.

Another disturbing trend arises when these laws prevent responsible breeders from being able to breed and raise quality family pets. Nearly one out of every two families in the United States has a dog. This generates a significant demand for well-bred puppies. Responsible breeders are committed to raising healthy purebred dogs and provide the opportunity for local residents to purchase a quality dog from an expert in the breed who is also knowledgeable about the needs, temperament, and background of the puppy offered for sale. These breeders help potential new owners understand the breed and ensure that a prospective buyer is a good lifestyle fit with the new puppy.

If responsible breeders are forced out of business, those who wish to purchase a purebred dog are forced to seek other avenues. This may include buying puppies over the Internet, where the dogs may be imported from countries with fewer health and safety standards than the United States. Anecdotal evidence has shown a significant increase in the number of dogs being transported into the country, with little to no veterinary oversight and care before the dogs are given to the new owners. A number of these dogs have become seriously ill with diseases such as rabies that are dangerous to both the dog and humans.

Why Exemptions Aren't Enough

Sometimes, instead of an outright spay/neuter mandate, lawmakers will opt to enact laws with stricter regulations on those who choose to not sterilize their dogs. Intact animal permits and differential licensing require those who choose not to sterilize their dogs to obtain a license that is often significantly more expensive than those for sterilized dogs. Some communities do not require licenses unless a dog is intact. Other policies provide exemptions for owners whose dogs are listed with a nationally-recognized registry.

These policies, including exemptions,

punish responsible dog owners simply because they choose to own an intact dog. Responsible dog breeders and owners have a right to own an intact dog if they so choose without being subject to regulations beyond those of other dog owners.



SOFT-COATED WHEATEN TERRIER - MARY BLOOM © AKC

“Public education about responsible dog ownership improves public safety, reduces economic burdens on a community, and preserves the rights of dog owners – all while helping dog owners learn how to care for their pets.”

The AKC encourages dog owners to sterilize their pets unless they wish to participate in responsible breeding programs, performance events, or AKC conformation dog shows. As conformation shows are ultimately designed to judge the quality of breeding stock, all dogs entered into these events must be intact. Mandatory spay/neuter defeats the whole purpose of traditional dog shows!

Some laws offer exemptions to MSN policies for “show dogs”. However, this exemption misses the point that spaying/neutering should be an individual decision made by an owner, not forced by the state. It is also very difficult to prove whether or not a dog is being kept for exhibition. Some mandatory spay/neuter schemes require a dog to be shown at least once a year in order to be exempted from the sterilization policies, but not all breeders show all their dogs every year. In addition, many breeders choose to breed their female show dogs after they have finished showing them to their championships. Other owners may choose to see how a dog develops before making a decision about whether to show

the dog. There are many valid reasons for an exhibitor not to show a dog every year, and this choice should be respected.

What's the Solution?

Targeting the issue of irresponsible ownership is the best solution for addressing dog-related issues in a community. This begins with gathering data about the extent and nature of a possible problem in a community. Does the community have reliable statistics on unowned or unwanted animal populations? Does the community currently have comprehensive animal control statutes to address at-large dogs, nuisance dogs, and stray animals? If so, how are they enforced?

Does enforcement include appropriate fines and penalties? Does the community need additional support to enforce these laws? If existing laws are not being followed or enforced, then adding more laws will not improve the situation.

Communities may also want to consider encouraging private organizations to provide/subsidize low-cost

spay/neuter clinics to help give low-income individuals the opportunity to sterilize their dogs if they wish.

One of the most effective ways to ensure compliance is through strong public education programs. These programs cover the basics of responsible dog ownership and local dog laws. The American Kennel Club has a wealth of materials to help shelters, community organizations, schools, and other public organizations educate the public about responsible dog ownership. The AKC also provides resources through thousands of local kennel clubs, located in all 50 states, who are willing to assist local leaders in designing and implementing positive canine education programs.

Addressing irresponsible dog ownership through strict enforcement of animal control laws and strong public education programs are effective and cost-efficient ways to address animal control issues. Public education about responsible dog ownership improves public safety, reduces economic burdens on a community, and preserves the rights of responsible caring dog owners – all while helping dog owners learn how to care for their pets.



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MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER LAWS

BACKGROUND:

Mandatory spay/neuter laws are usually considered by state and local governments in response to animal control concerns in the community. Proponents believe that mandatory spay/neuter laws will reduce the number of animals at the local shelters and strays roaming in neighborhoods. However, these laws have not proven an effective solution to animal control concerns and punish responsible breeders.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- **MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER LAWS ARE INEFFECTIVE**
Mandatory spay/neuter laws have not proven effective in reducing shelter populations. In fact, some shelters have seen an increase as owners choose to leave their dogs at a shelter if they are unable to pay the costs associated with having their dog spayed or neutered. Moreover, many national research organizations have reported that the majority of unwanted dogs in the United States come from irresponsible owners who are unwilling to train, socialize, or care for their dogs. Imposing a mandatory spay/neuter law will not resolve the issue of irresponsible ownership.
- **MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER LAWS ARE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE**
Mandatory spay/neuter laws are extremely difficult to enforce and can be evaded by irresponsible animal owners. Mandatory spay/neuter laws often result in a decrease in the number of dogs licensed, because some individuals choose to not license their animals in order to avoid spaying and neutering their pets.
- **MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER LAWS ARE COSTLY TO THE COMMUNITY**
Mandatory spay/neuter laws greatly increase the work load of animal control offices, many of which are already strained financially. Animal control offices also find they are euthanizing more animals at the taxpayer's expense, because some owners choose to leave their animals at the shelter rather than complying with the law. A mandatory spay/neuter law also communicates the message that the municipality is not "dog friendly" and sends a strong message that AKC events, which generate a significant amount of revenue for the local economy, are not welcome in the community.
- **MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER LAWS ARE UNFAIR TO RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS**
Mandatory spay/neuter laws target all dog owners, regardless of their level of responsibility or the behavior of their animals. The AKC believes responsible owners have a right to use their own discretion in determining whether to alter their animals. In addition, these laws would restrict the rights of numerous responsible breeders who breed and raise purebred dogs for the purpose of showing. These breeders make a serious commitment to their animals and to ensuring the future health, welfare and breed type of their individual breeds. The AKC believes the decision to spay/neuter is best left to responsible owners in consultation with their veterinarian.

A BETTER SOLUTION IS AVAILABLE

Rather than impose a mandatory spay/neuter law on all dog owners, governments should instead focus on enforcing effective animal control laws and increasing public education efforts. Strongly enforced regulations such as leash laws would prevent irresponsible owners from allowing their pets to run loose, which can lead to accidental breeding. A strong public education campaign teaches community residents how to properly care for their pets and the importance of being a responsible pet owner. The American Kennel Club, as well as many local dog clubs, can assist communities in developing effective animal control laws and public education programs that address the issue of irresponsible ownership while still protecting the rights of responsible owners and breeders.

AKC Companion Animal Recovery Donates Nearly \$400,000 to Date in 2010

Disaster Preparedness Contributions to Benefit Organizations Across the Country

Throughout the first half of 2010, the AKC Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR) Canine Support and Relief Fund has donated nearly \$400,000 to organizations across the nation, including CAMET (Companion Animal Mobile Equipment Trailer) trailers to Delaware and Vermont and more than \$215,000 in grants to Search and Rescue organizations for equipment and preparedness training.

AKC and AKC CAR established the Canine Support and Relief Fund in the aftermath of September 11th in 2001. Since its creation, the Fund has contributed almost \$3 million and has provided support, resources and other assistance to non-profit canine search and rescue organizations, not-profit veterinary units supporting canine rescue teams and not-for-profit animal shelters and other organizations that provide care for companion animals in the event of natural or civil disaster.

"AKC CAR is very pleased to administer the Canine Support and Relief Fund and to provide resources that will directly impact America's pets in times of disaster," said Tom Sharp, AKC Companion Animal Recovery CEO. "The support of donors makes this possible, and allows us to carry on our mission of promoting permanent identification of pets, reuniting lost pets with their owners, and giving back to the community."

AKC CAR's most recent donation of \$17,500 each to the state of Delaware's Kent County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc. and to the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (VDART) enables both organizations to acquire CAMET units, which will aid in state preparedness. CAMET units are supplied to organizations by the North Carolina State Animal Response Team (NC SART) which AKC CAR has worked with over the years on other similar donations. The trailers provide immediate shelter when disaster strikes and contain items such as crates, a generator, first aid kits, a pressure washer, power cords, animal ID bands, dog bowls and more. Once unloaded, the trailer also serves as a local command center.

"Vermont is grateful to the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery for providing the funding needed for purchase of a CAMET by the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (VDART, Inc)," said Dr. Kristin Haas, State Veterinarian. "As a result of this kind donation, The Vermont Agency of Agriculture and VDART, Inc. will be better prepared to effectively meet the animal emergency response challenges that arise during any disaster event. On behalf of the 75% of Vermont residents who own pets, I would like to extend my appreciation to the AKC CAR for this gift to our state."



BASSET HOUND - ISABELLE FRANCAIS FOR AKC

“Our mission [is] promoting permanent identification of pets, reuniting lost pets with their owners, and giving back to the community.”

"We're overwhelmed at the gift of this trailer," said Murrey Goldthwaite, Executive Director of the Kent County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Inc. and Delaware Animal Care and Control. "We are the animal control response for the entire state of Delaware and since we're located in the middle, our group gets pulled in many different directions. The trailer will allow us to respond to disaster without taking resources away from our shelter."

In addition to the CAMET trailers, another state in the area – Massachusetts – also received a \$5,000 disaster preparedness grant to specifically address evacuation needs on Cape Cod. The State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART) will spearhead that effort.

"On behalf of the State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team (SMART), I would like to thank AKC CAR for their generous donation," said David Schwarz D.V.M., President of SMART. "It is well known that people will not evacuate their homes and go

to a shelter unless they know they can bring their pets and that those pets will be cared for and returned to them. This grant will help us buy the necessary supplies so we can meet the demand of housing animals during a disaster and also allow us to facilitate emergency response and ensure public safety."

In addition to disaster preparedness and relief donations, notable Search and Rescue contributions in 2010 include a \$25,000 donation to the United States Police Canine Association (Region 7) – in honor of the NYPD K-9 teams that assisted with earthquake relief efforts in Haiti – which will enhance ongoing SAR education of law enforcement K-9s and their handlers. A grant given to the National Search Dog Alliance in Houston, Texas, will help subsidize costs of training seminars, while S.T.R.I.K.E. in West Milton, Pennsylvania, has used their funds to purchase supplies such as search and rescue vests and GPS equipment.

Reprinted from akc.org

To learn more about the AKC CAR Canine Support and Relief Fund, visit www.akccar.org/givingback

For tips on disaster preparedness from AKC and AKC CAR, visit www.akc.org/news/disaster_preparedness