



MY LEGISLATION GUIDE BOOK

Legislative Information, Recommended Practices and Dog Federations



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Author, Teresa Cuchiaro

Email: Teresa.Cuchiaro@gmail.com Cell Phone: 732-718-4024

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AKC Government Relations

AKC GR Toolbox

The AKC Government Relations Toolbox contains resources available to help you be effective advocates for responsible dog ownership and breeding.

<https://www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/government-relations/toolbox/>

AKC Flyers

Sample of informational flyers:

- [Communicating Effectively with Your Legislators](#) : Tips for Successful Involvement in Canine Legislation.
- [Make Your Contact Count](#) : Writing a letter can be an effective way of making your voice heard.
- [How a Bill Becomes a Law](#) : An infographic presentation of the steps from bill to law.
- [What to do When a Bad Bill is Introduced](#) : Be an effective advocate for your dogs and your rights.
- [Club Options for Political Involvement](#) : Lobby, voter education, etc.

AKC Articles

Sample of informational articles:

- [The Value of Responsible Dog Breeders](#) : Experts in their breed's temperament, health, and other characteristics.
- [Conformation Dog Shows More than a Pretty Face](#) : Highlights the diversity and purpose of purebred dogs.
- [Economic Benefits of Dog Shows](#) : Significant positive economic benefits to local host communities.
- [Economic Impact by State](#) : AKC Shows inject revenue into cities and states.

Legislative Tracking by AKC

AKC tracks bills and updates this site daily. A map is available to select your state or scroll down the list.

[AKC Legislative Tracking Map](#)

AKC Position Statements

AKC position statements on canine policy issues are available on the AKC website.

- Individual [AKC Position Statements](#)
- AKC Position [Statement Summary](#)

Contact Information for AKC Dog Law

For more information on how the Government Relations Department can help you, email doglaw@akc.org, or call 919-816-3720. Click here for a [downloadable flyer of services](#) the department offers.

Sign up here with your email address for Legislative Alerts: <https://www.akc.org/legislative-alerts/>

AKC Task Force on Anti-Breeder Harassment and Retaliation

AKC works to protect the rights of dog owners and has formed a Task Force to leverage against animal rights activists who target dog breeders with harassment, slander or retaliation for involvement in our legal and political representation.

www.akcgr.org/harassment

Read how to avoid being a target:

- [Avoiding Nuisance Complaints](#)
- [Why Legal Compliance Matters](#)

Examples of harassment/retaliation experiences may include:

- Suspicious phone inquiries or visits,
- Suspicious timing of anonymous complaints,
- Threatening communications or social media bullying,
- Suspicious inspections resulting in seizure of dogs with significant legal repercussions,
- And other tactics that may be intended as intimidation or retaliation.

Report if you have been a target of harassment by emailing reportharassment@akc.org or call 919-816-3720.

National Animal Interest Alliance

NAIA Website

<https://www.naiaonline.org/>

NAIA Mission

The mission of NAIA is to promote animal welfare, to strengthen the human-animal bond, and safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners. One of our most important tasks is educating the public about the critical difference between animal rights and animal welfare.

NAIA Resources

NAIA provides brochures and handouts for downloading, copying, and distribution to all who are concerned about animal welfare, reasonable animal control laws, and the impact of animal rights radicalism on animals and animal interests.

<https://www.naiaonline.org/resources/>

Handouts and Brochures can be found here: <https://www.naiaonline.org/resources/naia-brochures-and-handouts/>

Samples:

- [Animal Welfare and Animal Rights, Know the Difference](#)
 - Animal welfare is a philosophy that advocates that people who keep and utilize animals have a moral responsibility to assure their well-being, and to protect them from abuse and unnecessary suffering.
 - Animal rights is a philosophy that feels animals should be viewed as legal persons, not property, and that they should not be used as food, for clothing, in research, or entertainment.
- [NAIA Shelter Project: Dog Trends in US Pet Shelters](#) According to this study, the number of purebreds in US animal shelters is only 5%.
- [Animals & Public Policy: Call on NAIA for Answers](#) : NAIA will help legislators and agencies write laws with clear health, safety and nuisance standards and definitions.
- [Preserving the Canine-Human Bond by Supporting Reasonable Dog Laws](#) : NAIA will help policy makers draft common-sense laws that the public can embrace, laws that target irresponsible conduct, while respecting the rights of responsible pet owners and their neighbors.
- [The "Pet Guardian" Movement](#) : Referring to dog owners as "guardians" means that people who buy dogs do NOT own them.
- [An introduction to purebred dogs and the dedicated breeders who raise them](#) : Purebred dog fanciers become breeders because they love dogs, appreciate the qualities of a particular breed or two, and enjoy working with other people who love dogs.
- [Guide to Finding a Good Breeder](#) : A good breeder makes a difference in the community by promoting responsible pet ownership and good neighbor practices, helping pet owners train/socialize their dogs, and serving as an expert on all issues related to dogs.

Articles can be found here:

<https://www.naiaonline.org/naia-library/articles/>

National Animal Interest Alliance Trust

The NAIA Trust supports:

- Responsible dog ownership
- The breeding and showing of purebred dogs
- Participation in dog sports and other recreational activities that depend on canine working partners
- The use of dogs in law enforcement and search and rescue missions and as companions and helpers under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Voluntary spay/neuter and identification of pets and reasonable efforts to rescue unwanted dogs for placement in new homes.

NAIA Trust Website

<https://www.naiatrust.org>

NAIA Trust Position Statements

<https://www.naiatrust.org/about-us/position-statements/pets-and-pet-ownership/dogs/>

Articles can be found there such as:

[NAIA: Dog fanciers can join forces to turn the tables on anti-breed, anti-breeder, and anti-pet groups](#)

Animal Welfare Act (AWA)

Read the Federal Animal Welfare Act regarding dogs here: [Animal Welfare Act](#)

Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA)

The AHPA authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict the importation, entry, or further movement in the United States, or order the destruction or removal, of animals (including livestock) and related conveyances and facilities for reasons of livestock pest or disease control, or humane treatment. Read the AHPA act here: [AHPA](#)

United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS)

The Service was established to conduct regulatory and control programs to protect and improve animal and plant health for the benefit of man and the environment. In cooperation with State governments, the agency administers Federal laws and regulations pertaining to animal and plant health and quarantine, humane treatment of animals, and the control and eradication of pests and diseases.

APHIS works in a variety of ways to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of our nation's animals (including various wildlife), animal products, and veterinary biologics. This subject area describes many of the diseases facing animals today, as well the steps APHIS is taking to prevent, control, and eliminate those conditions.

Import/Export

When travelling with your pet(s), there may be animal health requirements specific for that destination. As soon as you know your travel details, contact your local veterinarian to assist with the pet travel process. Factors to consider may include meeting time frames for obtaining a health certificate, updating vaccinations, diagnostic testing, or administration of medications/ treatments.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/pet-travel-home-page>

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USDA APHIS Website

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/home/>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare>

Contact information for USDA APHIS

Questions can be answered by contacting USDA APHIS at 970-494-7478 or AnimalCare@usda.gov.

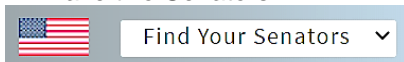
Congress and the Law

A member of either the House of Representatives or Senate sponsors a bill. Both have committees that specialize in various topics such as agriculture, education and labor, ethics, and much more, and these committees review the bills first. After committees analyze and hear arguments on a bill, they revise it and send it to a vote in their chamber of Congress. If the bill passes the vote, the process then repeats in the other chamber. If both the House and the Senate vote in favor of the bill with 51% support, it is sent to the President of the United States to be signed into law or vetoed. If the bill is vetoed, it can either go back to Congress for another vote and be passed into law with a two-thirds favorable vote or the process repeats after revisions.

Find Your Senators and Representatives

Senators

- The Senate is divided into three classes for purposes of elections. Senators are elected to six-year terms, and every two years the members of one class--approximately one-third of the senators--face election or reelection. Each state will have two Senators.



- For a list of Senators by state or class or by last name, go to their [Contact Page](#).

Representatives

- Representatives, also referred to as congressmen or congresswomen, are elected to two year terms. They introduce bills and resolutions, offer amendments and serve on committees.
- Go to the website <http://www.house.gov/> and in the banner you will immediately see an easy way to find out who your representative is. Just enter your zip code.



- To view the complete list of Representatives by state and district or by last name, go to their [Directory](#).

State Legislature Websites

[Alabama](#)

[Alaska](#)

[Arizona](#)

[Arkansas](#)

[California](#)

[Colorado](#)

[Connecticut](#)

[Indiana](#)

[Iowa](#)

[Kansas](#)

[Kentucky](#)

[Louisiana](#)

[Maine](#)

[Maryland](#)

[Nebraska](#)

[Nevada](#)

[New Hamp](#)

[New Jersey](#)

[New Mexico](#)

[New York](#)

[North Carolina](#)

[Rhode Island](#)

[South Carolina](#)

[South Dakota](#)

[Tennessee](#)

[Texas](#)

[Utah](#)

[Vermont](#)

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<u>Delaware</u>	<u>Massachusetts</u>	<u>North Dakota</u>	<u>Virginia</u>
<u>Florida</u>	<u>Michigan</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>Washington</u>
<u>Georgia</u>	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>West Virginia</u>
<u>Hawaii</u>	<u>Mississippi</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Wisconsin</u>
<u>Idaho</u>	<u>Missouri</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>
<u>Illinois</u>	<u>Montana</u>		

Within each state website you can search for county and municipal services.

For example:

New Jersey

<http://www.state.nj.us/>

<https://nj.gov/nj/gov/county/>

<https://nj.gov/nj/gov/county/municipalities.html>

Here is where you can monitor on the town level any proposals that may affect pet ownership or breeding rights. Since many towns 'parrot' other town ordinances, it is imperative to influence your administrators early on.

Dog Federations

State dog federations and their active members have a powerful voice in affecting proposed legislation that will directly impact their residents. It is important to be united and vocal on many topics that address dog ownership such as unfair breeder regulations, limit laws, breed-specific legislation and mandatory spay-neuter laws. When fighting bad dog laws remember AKC Government Relations will partner with you when you make a request before it is too late to fight.

AKC List of Dog Federations

<https://www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/government-relations/federations/>

AKC Federation Statement of Principles

https://images.akc.org/pdf/canine_legislation/federation_statement_principles.pdf

Regional clubs can join their state federation and send their delegates to meetings.

Neighborhood Networking

You can join a neighborhood social networking group online using <https://Nextdoor.com> to be kept aware of upcoming agenda items. Learn how to join your neighborhood group or start one here [How-to-join-Nextdoor](#). They have an application (app) that you can add to your smart phone. To view on Facebook, search for <https://www.facebook.com/Nextdoor/>.

Many private neighborhood forums have been created on Facebook. Search for your own local neighborhood community group by typing your town in the search box and ask to join.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Besides dealing with public awareness of dog ownership rights, it is most helpful to be a recognizable face in the public eye. One way for clubs to meet the public is to organize an "AKC Meet the Breed ®". This can be done alone or in conjunction with an "AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day", also known as RDOD, event held nationally in the month of September. This can be a qualifier for clubs to hold their specialties.

<https://www.akc.org/sports/responsible-dog-ownership-days/>

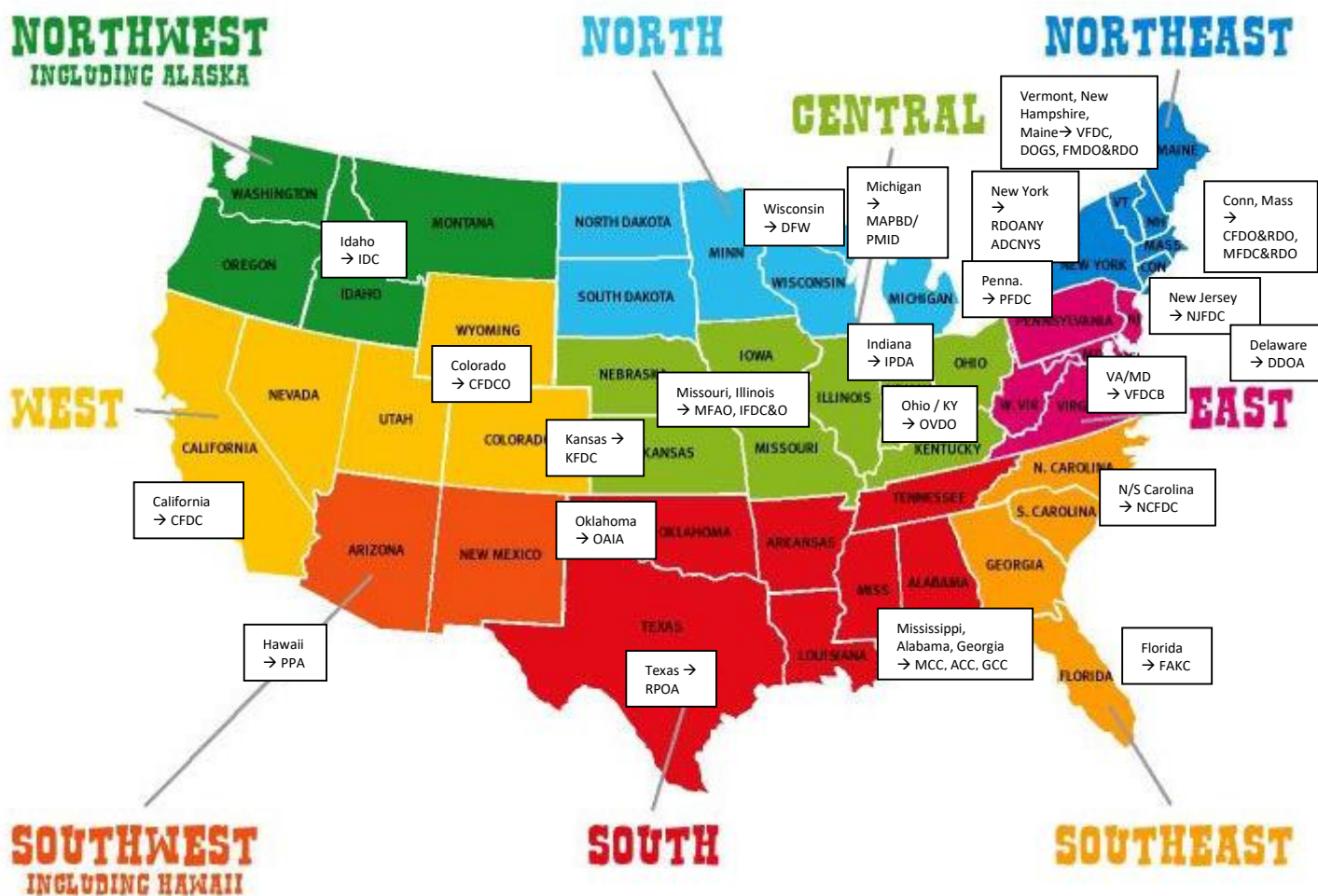
Personal Responsibility

Each and every one of us can take responsibility for our “dog friends”, club members, and neighbors. Share phone numbers to provide assistance when needed. Check in with the elderly or health compromised. Are they able to manage their pets while they convalesce? Are they able to take care of their pet’s needs? Do they need a temporary foster home? Do they need temporary financial assistance? It doesn’t take long to have a situation turn into a crisis.

Be aware of the current laws in your municipality for noise and dog limits, and which organization, e.g. Police or Animal Control Officers, is authorized to investigate complaints. Know your rights. Especially know whether officers may or may not enter your property without a warrant. What may be construed as abuse by an outside observer may just be as harmless as a yet to be attended kennel room.

Appendix 1: Map of USA Regions

[Central](#) [East](#) [North](#) [Northeast](#) [Northwest](#) [South](#) [Southeast](#) [Southwest](#) [West](#)



Appendix 2: Dog Federations by Region

REGION	STATE	DOG FEDERATION
Central	Illinois	Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners
Central	Indiana	Indiana Purebred Dog Alliance
Central	Iowa	
Central	Kansas	Kansas Federation of Dog Clubs
Central	Kentucky	
Central	Missouri	Missouri Federation of Animal Owners
Central	Nebraska	
Central	Ohio	Ohio Valley Dog Owners
East	Delaware	Delaware Dog Owners Association
East	Maryland	Maryland Dog Federation
East	Maryland	Responsible Dog Owners of Maryland, Inc.
East	New Jersey	New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs
East	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs

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REGION	STATE	DOG FEDERATION
East	Virginia	<u>Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs & Breeders</u>
East	West Virginia	
North	Michigan	<u>Michigan Association for Pure-Bred Dogs</u>
North	Michigan	<u>Protect MI Dogs</u>
North	Minnesota	
North	North Dakota	
North	South Dakota	
North	Wisconsin	<u>Dog Federation of Wisconsin</u>
Northeast	Connecticut	<u>Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs & Responsible Dog Owners, Inc.</u>
Northeast	Maine	<u>Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners</u>
Northeast	Massachusetts	<u>Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs & Responsible Dog Owners</u>
Northeast	New Hampshire	<u>Dog Owners of the Granite State</u>
Northeast	New York	<u>Responsible Dog Owners Association of New York</u>
Northeast	New York	<u>Associated Dog Clubs of New York State, Inc.</u>
Northeast	Rhode Island	
Northeast	Vermont	<u>Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs</u>
Northwest	Alaska	
Northwest	Idaho	<u>Idaho Dog Coalition</u>
Northwest	Montana	
Northwest	Oregon	
Northwest	Washington	
South	Alabama	<u>Alabama Canine Coalition</u>
South	Arkansas	
South	Louisiana	
South	Mississippi	<u>Mississippi Canine Coalition</u>
South	Oklahoma	<u>Oklahoma Animal Interest Alliance</u>
South	Tennessee	
South	Texas	<u>Responsible Pet Owners Alliance</u>
Southeast	Florida	<u>Florida Association of Kennel Clubs</u>
Southeast	Florida	
Southeast	Georgia	<u>Georgia Canine Coalition</u>
Southeast	North Carolina	<u>North Carolina Federation of Dog Clubs</u>
Southeast	South Carolina	
Southwest	Arizona	
Southwest	Hawaii	<u>Pacific Pet Alliance</u>
Southwest	New Mexico	
West	California	<u>California Federation of Dog Clubs</u>
West	California	<u>Dog Owners of the Golden State</u>
West	California	<u>Sacramento Council of Dog Clubs</u>
West	California	<u>The Animal Council</u>
West	Colorado	<u>Colorado Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners</u>
West	Nevada	
West	Utah	
West	Wyoming	
		<u>National Animal Interest Alliance</u>

Appendix 3: Contact Information for Dog Federations by State

Alabama

[Alabama Canine Coalition](#)

Baba Monk, President, 334-567-0673, Info@alabamacaninecoalition.org

Arkansas

Grover Jameson, 479-965-2078, Ark.STEPP@ymail.com

California

[California Federation of Dog Clubs](#)

Judythe Coffman, President, 661-256-6743, judy@cfodconline.org

[Dog Owners of the Golden State](#)

Chuck Bridges, President; 1-866-972-8373; info@ca-dogs.org

[Sacramento Council of Dog Clubs](#)

Joan Gibson Reid, 916-689-1661, jgrcorgis@comcast.net

[The Animal Council](#)

Sharon Coleman, 650-692-0126, TheAnimalCouncil@aol.com

Colorado

[Colorado Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners](#)

Linda Hart, 303-842-1033, Kharahs@comcast.net

Connecticut

[Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs & Responsible Dog Owners, Inc.](#)

Mabel M. Diamond, 860-251-5931, mmdiamond@charter.net

Delaware

[Delaware Dog Owners Association](#)

David Lawson, 302-632-3848, info@delawaredogs.org

Florida

[Florida Association of Kennel Clubs](#)

Susan Smith, mikakkid2@aol.com

Georgia

[Georgia Canine Coalition](#)

Gail LaBerge, 770-271-7246, OUTLAND@laberge.org

Hawaii

[Pacific Pet Alliance](#)

pacificpetalliance@gmail.com

Lynn Muramaru, President, 808-542-9581

Charlee Abrams, Secretary, 808-742-9537

Idaho

[Idaho Dog Coalition](#)

Wyoma Clouss, 208-345-5197, info@idahodogcoalition.org

Illinois

[Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs and Owners](#)

Steve Hayden, President, hybrk1@comcast.net

Michele Kasten, Vice President, schipnut58@yahoo.com

Indiana

[Indiana Purebred Dog Alliance](#)

Carole Creech, 317-340-1926

Gwen Chaney, 317-509-3559, INPurebredDogs@yahoo.com

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Kansas

Kansas Federation of Dog Clubs
Patricia Deshler, wichitapudel@aol.com
Lori Neer, agilitydog@twinvalley.net

Maine

Federation of Maine Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners
Perry N. Moore, (207) 288-3943, perrynm@hotmail.com

Maryland

Responsible Dog Owners of Maryland, Inc.
Mary Lou Olszewski, President – olbay101@aol.com
Bekki Pina, Corresponding Secretary – kaije1127@yahoo.com
Maryland Dog Federation
Adrienne Lefkowitz, 301-693-2256, marylanddogfederation@yahoo.com

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs & Responsible Dog Owners
info@massfeddogs.org

Michigan

Michigan Association for Pure-Bred Dogs
Bob Darden, bobkdarden@hotmail.com, 734-476-1791
Kim Cochran, 810-984-1977, mythicalaussies@comcast.net
Protect MI Dogs
Karen Palmer, Secretary, info@protectmidogs.org

Mississippi

Mississippi Canine Coalition
Leah Harris, lmharris562003@yahoo.com
Linda Chance, Legislative Chair, lhasasbychance@yahoo.com

Missouri

Missouri Federation of Animal Owners
Karen Strange, 573-480-2389, kjeeper@gmail.com

New Hampshire

Dog Owners of the Granite State
Elin Phinizy, dogs.nh@gmail.com

New Jersey

New Jersey Federation of Dog Clubs
Linda Deutsch, Legislative Chairperson, 908-996-4009, taadeutsch@yahoo.com
Jeffrey Ball, President, 201-689-1323, jeffbetsyball@yahoo.com

New York

Responsible Dog Owners Association of New York
Ann Lettis, 917-603-5358, annlettis2001@gmail.com, ann.lettis@friedfrank.com
Associated Dog Clubs of New York State, Inc.
Jeannette O'Hanlon, Johanlon@msn.com

North Carolina

North Carolina Federation of Dog Clubs
Steve Wallis, 919-782-2558, wallissm@bellsouth.net

Ohio

Ohio Valley Dog Owners
Norma Woolf, 513-932-3176, ovdogo@canismajor.com

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Animal Interest Alliance
Denise Travis, 405-818-5666, Dogdoc88@flash.net

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Oregon

[National Animal Interest Alliance](#)

Patti Strand, 503-761-1139, NAIA@naiaonline.org

Pennsylvania

[Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs](#)

Darin Cox, President, President@PAFederationofDogClubs.org

Bettina Sterling, Secretary, Secretary@PAFederationofDogClubs.org

Texas

[Responsible Pet Owners Alliance](#)

Mary Beth Duerler, 210-822-6763, rpoa@texas.net

Vermont

Vermont Federation of Dog Clubs

President, Mary McFaun, mmcfaun@aol.com

Vice President, Pam Parshall, pwparshall@myfairpoint.net

Secretary, Bette (Cookie) Mac, cookievt@gmail.com

Treasurer, Jennifer Adsit, lightfarm@gmavt.net

Virginia

[Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs & Breeders](#)

Mariane Herndon, marianer@verizon.net

Sharyn Hutchens, sharyn@timbreblue.com

Alice Harrington, aharrington4832@verizon.net

Wisconsin

[Dog Federation of Wisconsin](#)

doglaw@dfow.net