



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

November 12, 2012

The Honorable David Hall
Chairman, House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
77 S. High Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: AKC Comments on Senate Bill 130- Dog Breeder Regulations

Dear Chairman Hall and Members of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes on behalf of thousands of responsible dog owners and breeders in Ohio to express our appreciation for the numerous amendments made in the Senate to address concerns with Senate Bill 130 and to ensure that it protects both the health and welfare of dogs and the rights of responsible dog breeders. We respectfully request one further amendment to ensure a clear and effective law.

We remain concerned about the definition of “kennel” in §955.02, which, as amended in this bill, is defined as any establishment that keeps, houses, and maintains adult dogs for the purpose of breeding the dogs for a fee. **It is very difficult to determine whether or not someone intends to breed a dog, as owners keep intact dogs for a variety of reasons, including the ability to participate in AKC conformation dog shows and trials.** The AKC respectfully requests that this amendment be stricken and the definition remain as it is in current law, which clarifies that a kennel is defined as those who are “*professionally engaged in the business of breeding dogs...*”, and not all intact dog owners or hobby breeders who occasionally breed a litter in their home.

We share your desire to ensure that the health and safety of dogs is protected under this bill and subsequent regulations. Attached you will find the AKC’s newly revised Care and Conditions Policy, which outlines the standards we require for all who register dogs with us. We believe the regulations outlined in this policy are fair and reasonable, and above all, help improve the quality of life for dogs. As you move forward, we suggest that you consider this policy as a guideline for regulations. We would be pleased to offer our expertise on crafting reasonable and effective regulations regarding the care and conditions of dogs bred and raised in Ohio.

The American Kennel Club appreciates the Ohio General Assembly’s continued willingness to work with the AKC and responsible dog owners and breeders to address concerns with SB 130. Thank you for your efforts in ensuring that any law created truly protects the health and wellbeing of dogs, as well as the rights of responsible Ohio dog owners and breeders.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clark
Manager, Canine Legislation

Cc: Speaker William Batchelder
Senator Jim Hughes