



# AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

**Phil M. Guidry, J.D.**  
Sr. Policy Analyst  
Government Relations

Friday, March 17, 2017

The Honorable Daniel J. Fox, Chair  
Connecticut Joint Government Administration and Elections Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2200  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

**RE: Support Senate Bill 1002 (Raised) – Designate May 1 as Purebred Dog Day,  
March 13 as National K9 Veterans’ Day**

Chairman Fox and Members of the Government Administration and Elections  
Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today in support of Senate Bill 1002, which seeks to proclaim every May 1 as Purebred Dog Day and March 13 as National K9 Veterans’ Day in Connecticut. We respectfully request your support of this important legislation.

The American Kennel Club was established in 1884 and promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. We represent over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 57 clubs in Connecticut. As the world’s largest purebred dog registry, the nation’s largest purebred rescue network, and the only not-for-profit registry devoted to the health and wellbeing of all dogs, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, protects the rights of dog owners, and promotes the ideals of responsible dog ownership.

**The American Kennel Club supports proclaiming May 1 as Purebred Dog Day.**

Purebred dogs exhibit consistency in size, appearance, temperament and instincts. This enables prospective owners to choose a puppy that fits their particular lifestyle and increases the likelihood of a long, successful lifetime in that home.

By designating May 1 of each year as Purebred Dog Day, Senate Bill 1002 will help promote a strong future for purebred dogs and will honor purebred dog breeders whose commitment, vision and high standards have developed, sustain, and will continue to advance healthy purebred dogs as unequalled family and working companions.

**The American Kennel Club supports proclaiming March 13 as National K9  
Veterans’ Day.**

K9 Veterans Day is intended to honor military dogs as well as those working with police, customs, border patrol, service, therapy and other working dogs whose mission it is to protect and serve the homeland and people within it. Working dogs are commended for their loyalty and devotion and are known for placing themselves in harm's way even to the point of making the ultimate sacrifice for their partners, handlers, and trainers.

The American Kennel Club strongly supports the training and use of dogs by humans, whose lives are enriched by dogs' performing essential services. Dogs provide a wide variety of valuable services including: handicapped assistance dogs; drug, bomb, and arson detection dogs; and tracking dogs to locate missing persons and fugitives. The AKC encourages the continuation and further development of the use of dogs for these and similar purposes. For these reasons, we wholeheartedly support the recognition of March 13 as National K9 Veterans' Day.

Over our 133-year history, the American Kennel Club has been honored to advocate for purebred dogs, for the right to breed them for type and function, for the breeders who are committed to the health and wellbeing of dogs and preserving their unique breeds, and for the sport of purebred dogs. Because it will further promote those ideas in Connecticut, the AKC urges your support of SB 1002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil M. Guidry".

Phil M. Guidry, JD  
Sr. Policy Analyst, AKC Government Relations