



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

February 23, 2012

**Re: AKC Opposes Senate File 2073 – Commercial Breeder Regulations**

Dear Members of the Iowa State Senate:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes on behalf of our 63 Iowa dog clubs and thousands of responsible dog owners and breeders in Iowa to express our significant concerns with Senate File 2073, which would create significant challenges for those classified as commercial dog breeders. We respectfully ask that you not allow this bill to advance.

Dog ownership has a significant impact on Iowa's economy. In 2011 alone, over 250 AKC events were held in Iowa, in which over 37,000 dogs participated from across the United States. It is estimated that each year responsible Iowa purebred dog owners generate over \$15.6 million in revenue for local communities from dog shows, veterinary services, and other dog-related expenses.

Responsible breeders are models for their communities. They raise healthy dogs and work to ensure that puppies are placed with responsible owners. Responsible breeders are in a unique position to support new pet owners and teach them how to be caring and responsible dog owners. They should not be burdened with cumbersome, overbearing, and unnecessary regulations.

As currently defined in Iowa law, a "commercial dog breeder" is anyone who owns four intact dogs and receives any type of consideration for breeding. This encompasses those who breed and raise dogs in their homes for companions, participation in dog events, sporting, working/herding on farms, and a variety of other important purposes. Under Senate File 2073, if an owner's commercial breeder authorization becomes invalid for any reason and they are unable to obtain a new authorization, then the breeder will be forced to euthanize or "dispose" of their pets within 55 days.

New regulations continually being placed on Iowa breeders, including legislation currently under consideration in the Iowa Legislature, are making it virtually impossible for those who raise dogs in their homes to comply. This bill could force responsible breeders to unnecessarily sterilize their dogs, or even euthanize or "dispose" of them at a local shelter. This is a danger to the health and welfare of the dogs and an unnecessary burden on responsible dog owners and Iowa taxpayers.

The American Kennel Club and our constituent dog owners in Iowa respectfully ask that you not allow Senate File 2073 to advance. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to address your concerns while still ensuring the health and wellbeing of animals and the rights of responsible pet owners are protected. Please contact us at (919) 816-3720 if we can be of assistance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheila Goffe  
Director, Government Relations