Advancing Public Policy for US Detection Dogs

Identifying & Addressing Needs Through Legislative Action (Part 2)

AKC US Detection Dog Conference
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• Sheila Goffe, AKC
• Mike Williams, MWCS
Overview: Identifying & Addressing Needs through Legislative Action

- Forrest McConnell: Policymaker insights & actions on detection dog policy (Wed)
- Sheila Goffe: Public Policy Takeaways & initiatives from 2017 Conference
- Next Steps/Q&A: Sheila Goffe & Mike Williams
Takeaways from 2017 Detection Dog Conference

A broad range of issues impact scarcity of suitable dogs for explosives detection.

Some of these issues can be addressed or better understood through legislative/regulatory action.
Why Should AKC Advocate on this Problem?

AKC GR Goal: To Protect & Advance purebred dogs, monitor and positively impact public policy affecting dog ownership, and ensure that laws governing dog ownership & breeding are reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory.

Success will demonstrate to the U.S. public that Purebred dogs bred by thoughtful, purposeful, AMERICAN breeders are vital to the safety and security of our country.
AKC GR Focus On Detection Dog Issues

• Value of Dogs as Detectors
• Raising Awareness of Shortage
• National Security Tool
• Procurement Bias Toward European Sources
• Lack of Transparency in Gov. Costing & Selection
• Government Support for Collaborative Working Group to develop high quality standards for breeding & training of domestic detection dogs
Three Major Action Items

• Obtain Accurate information about sourcing by Dept of Defense/ Homeland Security

• Build Issue awareness – and support for U.S. Sourced Dogs

• Create public-private working group to establish recognized standards of excellence
Action 1: HR 2810 (NDAA)

2017 Defense Authorization Bill Requires DOD To

• Identify # MWD needed
• Ensure DOD needs & performance standards are available to breeders, trainers
• Coordinate with FSL agencies, NFP, universities & private sector to increase training capacity for MWD teams
• Encourage efficient, high quality, cost-effective domestic breeding programs
• Report back to congress annually  ...
Action 1: HR 2810 (NDAA)

Requires *Annual Report* to Congress on:

- Number of MWDs procured & cost by agency – for US-bred and imports
- Cost of procuring green dogs
- Number of US-bred vs. imports ultimately deployed for intended purpose -- *total cost* for each
- Explanation of cost differences among sources
Action 2: Build Issue Awareness & National Security Focus

News, Op Eds

America needs more bomb-sniffing dogs raised in our own country to keep us safe

Congressional testimony
Capitol Hill Events
Action 3: HR 4577
“Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act”

- Passed House and is now before the Senate.
- Establishes a public-private working group to develop a decentralized domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines and modernize canine training standards.
- Establishes baseline behavioral, medical & technical standards for EDDs, to be provided to TSA.
- TSA shall issue & incorporate baseline behavioral, medical & technical standards in all TSA statements of work.
Next Steps

• Advance 4577
• Communicate & Advocate!
• Conference Take-Aways
Thank You!

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