



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

## **AKC KENNEL INSPECTIONS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The American Kennel Club® is the only purebred registry in the United States with an ongoing routine kennel inspection program. The AKC has a dedicated team of experts who visit kennels to help breeders while ensuring the proper care and conditions of dogs and verify that breeders are maintaining accurate records for their dogs. The AKC Kennel Inspections Program has been proven to be a successful tool in promoting responsible dog ownership and breeding, and market research demonstrates the public's positive perception of the AKC's kennel inspection program. Since 2000, the AKC has conducted more than 55,000 inspections. The AKC's *Care and Conditions of Dogs* policy, along with record keeping and identification requirements, is the cornerstone of the AKC Inspections program and makes clear that the AKC will not tolerate substandard treatment of dogs.

### **FACTS ABOUT THE AKC INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS PROGRAM**

**BUDGET:** Over \$1.5 million annually

**THE NUMBERS:** The AKC conducts thousands of inspections annually throughout the United States. The AKC's inspection protocol applies equally to all types of breeders; the AKC does not conduct different types of inspections or apply different rules based on the number of dogs maintained or litters registered by a breeder.

**PURPOSE OF AN INSPECTION:** The AKC conducts inspections to ensure that care and conditions of the dogs and the facility in which they are housed are in compliance with AKC's extensive *Care and Conditions Policy* and to review records in order maintain the integrity of its registry,

During an inspection, the care and conditions of dogs and the facility in which they are housed are examined. This includes ensuring that dogs have access to adequate food and water, are in good physical condition, and have access to daily exercise. AKC also makes certain that the facility is constructed in such a way as to maintain the safety of the dogs, and that it is clean and of a sufficient size so that overcrowding does not exist. The registrant's individual dog ownership records, breeding records and litter records are also reviewed to make certain that the registration applications that have been received from the breeder are properly supported. DNA samples may also be taken under certain circumstances.

**EDUCATION:** AKC's Executive Field Staff educate registrants about the AKC's *Care and Conditions Policy*, its record keeping and dog identification requirements, and other AKC programs.

If the inspection determines that the registrant needs to make improvements to their record keeping and dog identification practices, the breeder is provided with information and recommendations on how to make improvements so they can achieve compliance.

**ENFORCEMENT:** If an individual fails to consent to an inspection or fails to correct areas identified as needing improvement during an inspection, the AKC will suspend the individual's ability to use its services or compete in its events. Typically, a suspension includes a fine. AKC privileges will only be reinstated after an inspection is conducted to confirm that the registrant is in compliance with AKC's rules and policies. In addition, if unsanitary and/or unhealthy conditions are found during the inspection, proper federal, state, and local agencies will be notified.

*For information about these and other AKC programs working to support responsible pet ownership, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).*