



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

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Director, Policy Analysis
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Tuesday, February 14, 2023

The Honorable Lindsey Port, Chair
Minnesota Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee
Room 1150, Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: AKC Supports Senate File 556 – Prohibit Landlords from Requiring Animal Declaw or Devocalization

Chair Port and members of the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC), which was established in 1884 and promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs, represents over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 102 clubs in Minnesota. 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. AKC and our affiliated clubs are both happy and proud to serve lawmakers and communities by sharing our animal care and responsible ownership principles with them. Today, we write to share our support of Senate File 556.

SF 556 would prohibit landlords from:

- (1) Advertising the availability of a property in a manner designed to discourage anyone from applying for occupancy because an applicant's animal has not been declawed or devocalized.
- (2) Refusing to allow occupancy or otherwise make unavailable a real property because of a person's refusal to declaw or devocalize an animal.
- (3) Requiring a tenant or occupant to declaw or devocalize an animal allowed on the premises.

In our view, landlords should have no power in the veterinary chain of care for animals owned by tenants. AKC supports SF 556 because it protects dog owners' rights to make the best health care decisions for their animals in consultation with their dog's veterinarian.

We respectfully urge passage of SF 556. Please feel free to contact me at (919) 816-3503 or phil.guidry@akc.org if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
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Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

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