



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

**Phil M. Guidry,
J.D.**

Director, Policy
Analysis

Government
Relations

Thursday, March 20, 2025

The Honorable Aric Putnam, Chair

Minnesota Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee

3215 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: AKC Opposes Senate File 1029, As Introduced

Dear Chair Putnam and Members of the Senate Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee,

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes to express strong concerns with Senate File 1029 and to respectfully urge the members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee to not advance this legislation.

Since our founding in 1884, the American Kennel Club has worked to protect and promote purebred dogs and is dedicated to preserving the future of purebred dogs. We honor purebred dog breeders whose commitment, vision, and high standards have developed, sustain, and continue to advance purebred dogs as unequalled family and working companions. AKC strongly supports and actively promotes a wide range of programs to educate the public about responsible purebred breeding practices and the responsibilities of dog ownership; and supports reasonable and enforceable laws that protect the welfare and health of dogs and do not restrict the rights of breeders and owners who meet their responsibilities.

When enacted in 2014, the Minnesota Commercial Breeders Act (M.S.A. § 347.57, *et seq*) classified licensees' internal operating data as private or nonpublic under the state's Government Data Practices Act (M.S.A. § 13.01, *et seq.*) As introduced, SF 1029 would remove that classification, and require publication of such data on the Board of Animal Health's website.

AKC is deeply concerned that the publication of sensitive information will provide anti-breeder protestors or animal rights extremists with facility location information and lead to harassment of licensees or business interruptions at their facilities, including at private homes. AKC has long-been concerned with reports of breeders being harassed or retaliated against by individuals who oppose breeding and will use whatever means necessary to interrupt facility operations; or because breeders have defended responsible breeding practices with public officials, commented on troublesome anti-breeder legislation, or testified about it before state and local legislatures.

AKC is also concerned that if facility location information is published, SF 1029 will facilitate increases in dog thefts. Dog thefts often involve high-value breeds like French Bulldogs or small breeds that are easy to grab and run off with, like Chihuahuas and Yorkshire Terriers. These dogs are most often "flipped" by the person to who stole them to make a quick profit.

The American Kennel Club believes that SF 1029 presents a risk to responsible, licensed, and law-abiding dog breeders, and respectfully requests that the committee not advance this bill. Thank you for your attention to these concerns and recommendations. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the AKC Government Relations team at 919-816-3720 or doglaw@akc.org if we may be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Guidry". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "P" and "G".

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.

Director, Policy Analysis - AKC Government Relations

CC: SF 1029 Sponsors – Senators Westlin, Housley, Abeler, Marty, and Boldon

Nick Roth, Committee Administrator