



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

AKC KENNEL INSPECTIONS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BACKGROUND:

The American Kennel Club (AKC[®]) believes dog owners bear a special responsibility to provide proper care and humane treatment to their canine companions at all times. This includes an adequate and nutritious diet, clean living conditions, regular veterinary care, kind and responsive human companionship and training in appropriate behavior. The AKC is the only all-breed, not for profit dog registry in the United States with a significant kennel inspection program.

FACTS ABOUT THE AKC INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT

BUDGET: Over \$2 million/year

THE NUMBERS: The AKC employs 13 inspectors spread throughout the United States. On average, the AKC Inspectors conduct over 5,000 inspections annually. The AKC has a protocol that dictates the frequency with which it inspects breeders based on their litter registration activity. However, the AKC reserves the right to conduct an inspection of the record keeping and dog identification practices, and the care and conditions of the dogs and kennel facilities for anyone that chooses to use its registry. AKC also inspects breeders based on written, signed, and substantiated complaints.

PURPOSE OF AN INSPECTION: The AKC conducts inspections to maintain the integrity of its registry, and 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* (To read the AKC Care and Conditions policy in its entirety, visit www.akc.org and type "Inspections" in the search box).

During an inspection, and AKC inspector reviews the registrant's individual dog ownership records, breeding records and litter records to make certain that the registration applications that are being received are properly supported. AKC also reviews the care and conditions of dogs and the facility that they are housed. This includes ensuring that dogs have access to adequate food and water, are in good physical condition and have access to daily exercise. The inspector 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.

EDUCATION: Inspectors also educate registrants about the AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements and its *Care and Conditions Policy*.

If the inspection determines that the registrant needs to make improvements to their record keeping and dog identification practices, the Inspector will provide the breeder with information and suggestions on how to make improvements so that they can achieve compliance. In addition to monitoring the care of dogs, record keeping, and licensing, AKC's inspectors also educate breeders about other programs AKC supports through registration fees.

ENFORCEMENT: While the Investigations and Inspections program strives to assist registrants in being compliant with AKC's rules and policies, if an individual fails to consent to an inspection or fails to correct areas identified and needing improvement during an inspection, the AKC will suspend the individual's ability to register dogs with the AKC and compete in AKC 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 AKC inspectors find unsanitary and/or unhealthy conditions 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.