



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

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New England

February 6, 2025

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Bill Pluecker, House Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry  
100 State House Station, Cross Building, Room 214  
Augusta, Maine 04333

**RE: Oppose LD 133, An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Nuisance Dogs**

Dear Chair Talbot Ross, Chair Pluecker, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club (AKC) is a not-for-profit organization that is recognized as a trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training. We advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion and promote the ideals of responsible dog ownership. We represent over 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including 31 in Maine, which represent thousands of dog owners. In 2023, AKC licensed and sanctioned [125 events in Maine where more than 11,000 dogs participated](#). Surveys estimate that exhibitors spend \$982 per show weekend, many of whom travel into Maine to participate.

LD 133 would amend the state's dangerous dog law by defining "nuisance" not only as dogs at large that assault or threaten people or other animals with injury, but to also include any dog that disturbs the peace by barking, howling or yelping excessively. LD 133 would also allow written complaints to be made to law enforcement up to 30 days after the incident.

Preventing breaches to a community's peace is important. However, AKC is opposed to LD 133 because it is in direct conflict with [Title 7 § 3950](#), which authorizes each municipality to adopt ordinances, laws, or regulations dealing with nuisance animals according to their geography. Under current law, any municipal ordinance that prohibits or limits barking dogs cannot be applied to dogs herding and protecting livestock or warning owners of danger to the livestock. In addition, dogs engaged in lawful activities such as hunting, mushing, or field trials are known to bark for extended periods of time. As written, LD 133 would likely lead to false claims of excessive barking that are unable to be substantiated by law enforcement 30 days after the alleged incident, like in instances when a dog may be experiencing separation anxiety. Issuing a warning to an unaware owner first can often remedy such situations.

We urge the committee to oppose LD 133. If I can be of any further assistance, I can be reached at [stacey.ober@akc.org](mailto:stacey.ober@akc.org) or (919) 816-3348. Thank you.

Regards,

Government Relations Regional Manager, New England

Cc: The Honorable Rick Bennett, Sponsor LD 133  
Nancy Daniels, President, Federation of Maine Dog Clubs