



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM**

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March 18, 2019

The Honorable James Dill, Senate Chair
The Honorable Craig Hickman, House Chair
Joint Committee on Agriculture Conservation and Forestry
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: American Kennel Club Opposes LD 1049, Changes to State's Consumer Protection Law

Dear Chairs Dill and Hickman, and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club (AKC) is a recognized and trusted expert in health, breeding, training and responsible dog ownership. We represent over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 31 clubs in Maine. As the largest purebred dog registry in the world, we are dedicated to ensuring the health and wellbeing of all dogs and to preserving each unique breed; many which predate recorded history.

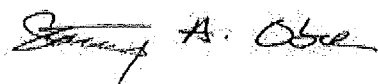
In 2018, the American Kennel Club licensed and sanctioned 105 events in the state of Maine, in which more than 7,880 dogs participated, with participants spending an average of \$685 per show weekend. The AKC and its affiliates have raised over \$44 million for canine health research projects since 1995; donated over \$2 million to help local emergency management prepare for and provide disaster relief for people and their pets; and offer lost dog recovery services that has reunited over 400,000 dogs with their families. Moreover, we inspect thousands of kennels every year to ensure the safety and welfare of AKC-registered dogs.

The American Kennel Club supports reasonable laws and regulations intended to protect the pet-buying public in obtaining a sound dog of the breed represented. Breeders and/or sellers should be responsible for providing certain refunds, replacements, or reimbursements should the dog sold become ill or die from a condition contracted prior to the purchase. Such remedies should be conditioned upon the buyer's scrupulous adherence to the care and feeding program prescribed by the breeder and/or seller, as well as a timely examination by a state licensed veterinarian. Breeders and/or sellers should provide buyers with a written bill of sale detailing the responsibilities of both the buyer and seller. This bill of sale should also detail any exclusions to refunds, replacements, or reimbursements.

The American Kennel Club believes that Maine's current consumer protections—as provided in Title 7, Part 9, Chapter 745, regarding the Sale of Dogs and Cats—appropriately and reasonably address the needs of purchasers. In addition to providing alternative remedies for a purchaser of a dog that has a health problem diminishing its life expectancy, LD 1049 would also ban sellers from exempting themselves from providing remedies via contract from dog deaths, or health problems, caused by hereditary or congenital defects that surface more than a year after purchase. *The expansion of the law beyond one year proposed in LD 1049 is unreasonable and would discourage the purposeful breeding of purebred dogs.*

Thank you for your consideration of the likely impact of LD 1049. We respectfully request the bill not be approved. If I can be of assistance to the committee, kindly contact me. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or Stacey.Ober@akc.org.

Sincerely,



Stacey Ober, JD
Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, New England
AKC Government Relations

CC: Members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
The Honorable Louis Luchini, Bill Sponsor LD 1049