AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
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Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Representative Tina Liebling, Chair
Minnesota House Health Finance and Policy Committee
477 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: AKC Supports House File 568 – Protecting Police K9s

Chair Liebling and Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today to share our emphatic support for HF 568, which provides that a person certified by the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board may provide medical care to police dogs injured in the line of duty.

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club is a not-for-profit animal welfare organization recognized and trusted as an expert in canine health, breeding, and training, and in promoting responsible dog ownership. We represent over 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including 101 in Minnesota, which represent thousands of dog owners. AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family and working companion, advances the health and well-being of all dogs, works protect the rights of dog owners, and promotes the ideals of responsible dog ownership.

AKC values the contribution that all working and detection dogs make to national security and the extraordinary role that these dogs play in protecting the peace and security of individuals and communities. We honor the breeders, trainers, and handlers of police dogs, and support providing specialized care to protect their wellbeing.

AKC is proud to support HF 568. Its enactment will better ensure that Minnesota's police K9s will not experience prolonged suffering from any injury sustained while working. We respectfully request the Health Finance and Policy Committee approve HF 568. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3503 or phil.guidry@akc.org.

Sincerely,

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
AKC Government Relations

CC: Representative Shane Mekeland, HF 568 Sponsor