



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

**Phil M. Guidry, J.D.**  
Director, Policy Analysis  
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Monday, March 11, 2024

The Honorable Samantha Vang, Chair  
Minnesota House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee  
Room 545, State Office Building  
100 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

**Re: AKC Opposes House File 3410**

Dear Chair Vang and Members of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes to express strong concerns with House File 3410 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, HF 3410 would remove that classification, and require publication of such data on the Board of Animal Health's website.

The American Kennel Club is deeply concerned that the publication of sensitive information would 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. This concern is not based in hypotheticals. Consider, for example, a story published on Sunday, March 10, 2024, by the Minneapolis Star Tribune of one Winona County breeder who had protestors gathering outside their family home on Christmas. (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/its-amish-vs-animal-lovers-as-winona-county-cracks-down-on-dog-breeding/ar-BB1jDQBy>) From neighboring Wisconsin, a Friday, March 8, 2024, article details how a case against three animal rights activists who broke into a dog breeding facility was dismissed when the facility moved to have the case dismissed due to, "concerns for their physical safety, as well as for their business." According to the article, the facility owners received

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

an increasing amount of death threats as the court was preparing for trial.  
(<https://isthmus.com/news/news/Ridglan-Farms-beagle-rescue-case-dismissed/>)

The American Kennel Club believes that HF 3410 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](mailto:doglaw@akc.org) if we may be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,



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

CC: Representatives Mike Freiberg and Andrew Myers, HF 3410 sponsors

*The American Kennel Club (AKC) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit purebred dog registry dedicated to promoting responsible dog ownership, advocating for dogs as family companions, advancing canine health and well-being, and working to protect the rights of all responsible dog owners. AKC represents more than 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including 102 clubs in Minnesota, representing thousands of responsible dog owners. In 2022, the AKC licensed and sanctioned 653 events in Minnesota in which more than 77,000 dogs participated.*