



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Phil M. Guidry, J.D.
Director, Policy Analysis
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Tuesday, February 14, 2023

The Honorable Michael Howard, Chair
Minnesota House Housing Finance and Policy Committee
585 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: AKC Supports House File 831 – Prohibit Certain Housing Developments from Imposing Breed-Specific or Weight-Based Ownership Restrictions on Tenants

Chair Howard and members of the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee:

The American Kennel Club (AKC), which was established in 1884 and promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs, represents over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 102 clubs in Minnesota. AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, protects the rights of dog owners, and promotes the ideals of responsible dog ownership. AKC and our affiliated clubs are both happy and proud to serve lawmakers and communities by sharing our animal care and responsible ownership principles with them. Today, we write to share our support of House File 831.

Under HF 831, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency would require each housing development that is financed on or after January 1, 2024, to authorize a resident to own or otherwise maintain one or more common household pets within the resident's dwelling unit, subject to applicable state laws and local government ordinances and other reasonable conditions. "Reasonable conditions" are defined as nuisance behaviors, leashing requirements, requirements to carry liability insurance coverage, limits on the number of animals in a unit based on the unit's size, and prohibitions on dangerous or potentially dangerous dogs; but explicitly excludes breed restrictions, limits on the weight of a pet, and onetime nonrefundable or monthly maintenance fees.

AKC strongly endorses the right to own, keep, and breed dogs in a responsible and humane manner. We believe that responsible dog ownership is compatible with most living arrangements. We oppose laws that limit the number of dogs a responsible owner may own as well as unreasonable limitations on pet ownership. Because it is in line with these positions, AKC supports HF 831 and respectfully urges its passage. Please feel free to contact me at (919) 816-3503 or phil.guidry@akc.org if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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