



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

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

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 758 – Prohibit Landlords from Requiring Animal Declaw or Devocalization**

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 758.

HF 758 would prohibit landlords from:

- (1) Advertising the availability of a property in a manner designed to discourage anyone from applying for occupancy because an applicant's animal has not been declawed or devocalized.
- (2) Refusing to allow occupancy or otherwise make unavailable a real property because of a person's refusal to declaw or devocalize an animal.
- (3) Requiring a tenant or occupant to declaw or devocalize an animal allowed on the premises.

In our view, landlords should have no power in the veterinary chain of care for animals owned by tenants. AKC supports HF 758 because it protects dog owners' rights to make the best health care decisions for their animals in consultation with their dog's veterinarian.

We respectfully urge passage of HF 758. Please feel free to contact me at (919) 816-3503 or [phil.guidry@akc.org](mailto:phil.guidry@akc.org) if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Founded in 1884; a not-for-profit corporation

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