



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Stacey Ober, J.D.
Legislative Analyst
Community Outreach
New England Region

March 14, 2019

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Chair
Rhode Island House Committee on the Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: AKC Concerned with House Bill 5113

Dear Chairman Craven and the Members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

On behalf of the American Kennel Club (AKC), I am writing to you again to respectfully express our concerns with House Bill 5113.

As you may know, the American Kennel Club was established in 1884 and promotes the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. As the world's largest not-for-profit purebred dog registry, we represent 10 Rhode Island dog clubs and sanction more than 50 dog events in the state each year. AKC promotes the ideals of responsible dog ownership, advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, works to advance the health and well-being of all dogs and to protect the rights of responsible dog owners.

The AKC abhors any type of cruel treatment of or negligent injury to animals and supports full enforcement of existing law. However, we remain concerned with legislation that provides for the creation and maintenance of animal abuser registries. We believe that the animal abuse registry requirements that would be created by H. 5113 could easily be evaded. For example, an individual convicted of animal cruelty could easily evade tracking by providing sellers with fake or altered names or by not providing updated addresses. No evidence exists to show that animal abuse registries reduce the rates of second or subsequent offenses or of deterring other potential animal cruelty violators.

The state Attorney General's office currently maintains a website listing those with criminal records that can be reviewed by the public at <https://publicportal.courts.ri.gov/PublicPortal/Home/Dashboard/29>. AKC believes a better use of the State's resources than establishing and maintaining a separate registry would be to focus on and utilize enforcement activities that are proven effective. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in this regard. For these reasons, the American Kennel Club respectfully requests that H. 5113 not be approved. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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