

• **Advocating for Dogs on Capitol Hill** -- Mike Williams, Principal, Mike Williams Capital Strategies & Chris Wall, Partner, The Policy Group

A presentation from Dr. Diane Brown, CEO of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, provided attendees with updates on the latest in peer-reviewed canine health research, and tied together numerous points made during the Tuesday's session by illustrating the intersection between health and public policy issues including threats from disease and parasites related to irresponsible pet imports.

This information dovetailed with updates about new federal legislation to protect pet and public health by improving health reporting and oversight for dogs imported into the U.S., discussed by Sheila Goffe and Julian Prager. To learn more about the issues of imports, see AKC's issue analysis on Rescue Dogs and Stopping a potential Danger click here.

The Tuesday morning session concluded with information about specific measures AKC is supporting and opposing in the Federal level, and tips and tools for successfully advocating for dogs with lawmakers. In the afternoon, many attendees put their new resources into practice by walking a

to Capitol Hill to meet with their congressional representatives.

**W**hile conference attendees were meeting with legislators, GCHS Sammatic Querida, (Reserve Best in Show at the 2018 AKC National Championship) and Lola the Norwich Terrier (GCHB Country Girl Kiss Me Lola) and their owners, Andrew and Amy Kiell-Green and Dina Moore, took part in a good will tour of the capitol. They visited Senate and House offices, the Senate Gallery and wowed dozens of lawmakers and congressional staff alike. On the House side, they met with Members of Congress and Veterinarians Ralph Abraham and Ted Yoho, along with Tom Malinowski, David Rouzer and many others.

Numerous Senators on their way to a vote paused to pet the dogs and give ear scratches. Rosie the Boxer joined the tour and received hugs from Sen. Thom Tillis (a longtime Boxer owner). Others who arrived in Senate chambers with dog hair on their suits were Sen. Ed Markey, Sen. Tammy Duckworth, Sen. Joni Ernst, Sen. Richard Burr, and many more.

The festivities also included a hugely successful Capitol Hill reception celebrating purpose bred dogs, which was attended by approximately 350 members of Congress, staff, and special guests. The event featured a mini "Meet the Breeds" with representatives graciously presented by their owners.

• **QUERIDA - WORKING GROUP** - GCHS Sammatic Querida - presented by Amy Kiell-Green and Andrew Green.

• **LOLA - NORWICH TERRIER - TERRIER GROUP** - GCHB Country Girl Kiss Me Lola - presented by Dina Moore.

• **SUMMER - PHARAOH HOUND - HOUND GROUP** - NBIS BIS GCHG Bazinga A Dream KC

Spring for Mia - presented by Margaret Graham Miller

• **PETIE - CHIHUAHUA - TOY GROUP** - GCH Bov Bayard Y'all Know My Daddy @ Jaken - presented by Kenneth Saenz

• **ROSIE - BOXER - WORKING GROUP** - CH Stone Murbe Rose on the Rise - presented by Taylor Fisher and Guy Fisher

• **MANU - TIBETAN SPANIEL - NON-SPORTING GROUP** - GCHP Kan Sing's Ambrier's Manaslu v. Altnaharra - presented by Martha Feltenstein

• **JACKSON - AMERICAN FOXHOUND - HOUND GROUP** - GCHB. Kiarry's Stonewall Jackson - presented by Lisa Miller

• **MAMIE - WELSH SPRINGER SPANIEL - SPORTING GROUP** - GCHS CH Mystic Acres First Lady at Five Star CGC - presented by Wendy Jordan

