

Reception guests interacted and took selfies with the dogs. They learned about numerous AKC and club-based programs that emphasize responsible dog ownership and breed stewardship, canine health research funding by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Reunite's lost pet recovery and disaster relief programs, Canine Good Citizen programs, and kennel inspections. AKC Government Relations staff discussed AKC's policy initiatives including programs that seek to improve the availability of quality US-bred dogs for detection training, protect the rights of service dog users while discouraging fraudulent representation of pets as service animals, enable victims to have access to domestic violence shelters with their pets, and more.

Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President Government Relations, briefly addressed the packed reception hall. She welcomed guests and spoke about the importance of purpose bred dogs.

"Historically, these dogs both worked alongside their people and provided them companionship," Goffe said. "Today, the service of these breeds continues. They are guide dogs and service dogs; they work in search and rescue; help put food on the table; serve alongside the military and police; and are guardians of home, hearth, and livestock. Purebred dogs make extraordinary pets because of their predictability in temperament, characteristics and requirements."

Amy Kiell-Green commented, "The reception was a tremendous success and a wonderful opportunity for attendees to understand the many benefits of purpose bred dogs and learn directly from responsible breeders. [We] are proud to advocate for purpose dogs, the sport of purebred dogs, and of breeders who are committed to the health and wellbeing of dogs and preserving their unique breeds, and we are incredibly humbled by the attendance and the interest this celebration received."

