



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Sheila Goffe
Vice President
Government Relations

January 12, 2021

The North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board
1611 Jones Franklin Rd. Suite 106
Raleigh, NC 27606

Re: AKC Requests Clarifications to Artificial Insemination Proposal

Dear Members of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board:

On behalf of the American Kennel Club and our 145 affiliate dog clubs in North Carolina, the American Kennel Club (AKC) writes today to thank Dr. Schadler for taking the time to meet with us regarding proposed changes to the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act regarding artificial insemination.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) was established in 1884 to promote the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. Today, our Operations Center in Raleigh and its 200 local employees, along with our North Carolina dog clubs, are dedicated to promoting responsible dog ownership throughout North Carolina and the nation.

As we discussed with Dr. Schadler last month, we share your goal of protecting the health and safety of dogs in our state. Should the board decide to proceed with amendments to the veterinary practice act, we respectfully ask for your consideration of the following:

- **Clarification Regarding Owner/Breeders.** To avoid confusion, we ask for a clarification in the new language that explicitly states that licensing requirements do not apply to breeders who artificially inseminate dogs they own. This would be in keeping with current requirements and interpretation of standard animal husbandry practices.
- **Recognition of the Value of Existing Professional Canine Breeder Services.** The current proposal, as approved by the NCVMB, could shutter useful, professional canine breeder services valuable to North Carolina dog owners, including services currently provided by other veterinary professionals. AKC does not oppose appropriate licensing and oversight, but believe that services limited to animal husbandry practices may be regulated appropriately without requiring that that licensees/business owners be licensed doctors of veterinary medicine. We urge you to consider an adjustment to allow for appropriate licensing and oversight of such services by other trained professionals.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. We appreciate the opportunity to continue communicating and working with the board to protect the health of dogs and the rights of responsible breeders in North Carolina. We would be pleased to discuss these recommendations in greater depth, and we look forward to continuing in a meaningful dialog on canine health and veterinary issues in North Carolina. Please do not hesitate to consider the American Kennel Club as a resource for you.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3720 or doglaw@akc.org.

Sincerely,

Sheila Goffe
Vice President, Government Relations
American Kennel Club