



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

April 9, 2018

RE: The American Kennel Club Supports Labrador Retriever as State Dog

Members of the Ohio House State and Local Government Committee:

On behalf of our 219 dog clubs and the thousands of responsible dog owners in Ohio, and as a proud Ohio native whose family still calls the Buckeye State home, I am pleased to express the American Kennel Club's support of House Bill 539, which would designate the Labrador Retriever as the State Dog of Ohio.

The Labrador Retriever is a wonderful choice for the State Dog of Ohio, with their combination of physical ability, intelligence, and eagerness to please. The versatile Lab is perfectly equipped for hunting, search and rescue, detection, companionship, and service and assistance. This wonderful breed shares a strong work ethic and drive with the people of Ohio, which is likely the reason it has been the most popular dog breed in the state for the past several years, including 2017.

The AKC supports this bill, which not only honors the Labrador Retriever, but also celebrates the long legacy of history, tradition, and culture associated with purpose-bred dogs.

In the interests of our shared commitment to the wellbeing of all dogs, the American Kennel Club thanks you again for your consideration and asks you to support House Bill 539. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 919-816-3761 or jennifer.clark@akc.org if you have any questions or we or our Ohio dog clubs may be of assistance in promoting and supporting this bill and responsible dog ownership in Ohio.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clark
Director, Legislative Outreach