

California Endorses Responsible Dog Ownership

The state is the 35th to support a resolution endorsing the AKC Canine Good Citizen program.

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California has taken a step to educate lawmakers and the public about the benefits of dog training and responsible dog ownership by endorsing the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen resolution.

Started in 1989, the CGC program is now supported in 35 states with the addition of California's resolution. The 10-step certification process rewards dogs with good manners at home and in the community.

In addition to strengthening the human-animal bond, the program recognizes that problems related to dogs are really problems about the need for responsible dog ownership, according to the AKC. Participating dog owners make a pledge to look after their pets' health, safety, and quality of life.

The CGC resolution in California was sponsored by Sen. Jenny Oropeza, D-Long Beach. AKC's Dr. Mary Burch, CGC director, worked closely with Oropeza's office on the resolution.

"California's CGC resolution is significant because it stresses the importance of responsible dog ownership," Burch said. "If dog owners would adhere to the CGC Responsible Dog Owner's Pledge, there would be no need for restrictive legislation anywhere."