

# BARKS

## Next Meetings

September 3, 7 pm at  
Muhlenberg Rec Center.

October 1, 7 pm at  
Mulhlenberg Rec Center.

## 2025 Shows

September 11 and 14,  
Macungie PA

## Other Events

Therapy Dogs: June 18, 7 pm  
at Berks Heim

Barks Deadline: August 10.  
Send submissions to  
[ClancyPBGV@gmail.com](mailto:ClancyPBGV@gmail.com) in a  
format that can be copied  
pasted (i.e. .doc or .pdf).



## President's Report

Will be sent via separate email.

## Public Outreach

Barks and Brews (5/17/25) went very well! Many thanks to members Bob, Kate, Pat, Madilyn and Barb for helping out and representing purebred, purpose-bred, responsibly bred dogs! Lots of foot traffic for 3-4 hours then things quieted down around 4pm so we packed up at that point. Canine ambassadors Darby, Raider, Sabrina, Tucker and Porter did a great job being breed representatives, and material on AKC activities and local breeders of interest was shared with the public.

- Submitted by Christine Kitsch

We were invited to participate in a new event this year, Barks and Brews on May 17, 2025 at Stoudtburg in Adamstown. This was the first year to include various rescue groups, vendors, food and music. We attended hoping to educate the public and advocate for purebred dogs and the difference between reputable breeders, health testing, etc. and why dogs from reputable breeders don't end up in rescue. We will be receiving a check from part of the proceeds which will be donated to ARL.

- Submitted by Barb McLaughlin

## Therapy Dogs

Next visit is 6/18 at 7pm at Berks Heim. Please let Christine K (610.207.9478) know if you plan to come so we know to look for you!

## Barks

The next deadline is August 10. If anyone is interested in taking over as Barks Editor, please let me know. I would be happy to help with templates and getting someone started.

## Scholarship

This year we have chosen three outstanding Berks County High School seniors. We have Samson Evans from Muhlenberg High School who will be attending Rutgers at the Camden Campus majoring in Pre-Vet Biology and focusing on Marine Wildlife. Samson is an Eagle Scout and has been playing varsity football and playing in the Marching Band at halftime in his football uniform. Lyndsey Smith graduated from Kutztown Area High School and will be attending Delaware Valley University majoring in Animal Science and Agriculture Education. Lyndsey plans on making a contribution in advancements to veterinary medicine in the livestock industry along with nutrition. Brooke Woods graduated from Wilson High School and will be attending Penn State University Park majoring in Animal Science. Brooke is focusing on marine life and animal behavior of marine life. All three of our recipients have very impressive backgrounds with involvement in their school, community and grades.

- submitted by Barbara McLaughlin

## Awards Dinner

We are always looking for new venues for our annual Awards Banquet, so any suggestions are welcome. It will again be the first Wednesday in February 2026 and more information will follow.

- submitted by Barbara McLaughlin

## Point Shows

Happy summer season! Hope you are enjoying your time outdoors (atleast when it's NOT raining!). Here's an update on our September Point Shows!

Plans are coming along for our new 2 days of Shows in September. As you know, we are now having 2 shows in September - Thursday & Sunday and have dropped our December show. Both shows are approved by AKC and cluster planning is on-going with the other 2 clubs. Trophy sponsorships are complete (if you missed it and want to donate please reach out to Michelle Oswald or me asap). It did look like a few 'regular' names were missing from the list.

Since we will not have any general membership meetings in July and August, please mark the dates on your calendars (Sept. 11 and Sept 14<sup>th</sup>) to come and help for BOTH shows if you can. We will definitely need your helping hands for both shows and we will kindly feed you for your efforts. And don't forget, you earn 'points' towards the yearly awards banquet for your efforts as well!

Looking to schedule a Show Committee Meeting soon, so keep an eye out for the notice!

Have a wonderful and successful summer and we'll see you in September - hey, I think that's a song...lol.

- submitted by Cheryl Burns



Recently, State Representative Kathleen “KC” Tomlinson (Dist. 18- Bucks County) introduced legislation that seeks to prohibit insurance companies in Pennsylvania from discriminating against homeowners based solely on the breed of dog they own.

If passed, [House Bill 1515](#) would prohibit insurers from making decisions on policy coverage based solely on dog breed. They may still change or deny coverage if the dog has been legally classified as a “dangerous dog” under Pennsylvania's Dog Law.

Pennsylvania residents are encouraged to contact lawmakers in support of House Bill 1515 (Scroll down for more information).

## Background

Currently, Pennsylvania law does not prohibit breed-based discrimination by insurers. Each insurance company sets its own underwriting rules, which may include dog breed exclusions. Some companies have lists of “restricted breeds” that may result in denial or cancellation of coverage.

Although current law does not bar insurers in Pennsylvania from refusing to issue a new policy based solely on the breed of a dog in the home, once a policy has been active for 60 days or more, Pennsylvania's Unfair Insurance Practices Act prohibits insurers from canceling that policy based solely on the breed of the dog.

Notwithstanding the Unfair Insurance Practices Act, if a dog exhibits dangerous behavior or has a history of biting, insurers are allowed to consider this in deciding whether to renew policy.

## What HB 1515 Does

Specifically, the bill would make it unlawful for insurers to:

- Refuse to issue or renew a homeowner's insurance policy.
- Cancel an existing policy.
- Increase premiums or rates solely because the insured owns a particular dog breed or breed mix.

However, insurers may still take action if the dog has been officially designated a “dangerous dog” the existing Dog Law.

The bill has been assigned to the House Housing and Community Development Committee. If passed, the law would apply to any new, renewed, or modified homeowner's insurance policy.

## Why It Matters

This bill would protect responsible dog owners—particularly those with breeds often labeled by insurance companies as “aggressive”—from discriminatory insurance practices. It emphasizes individual behavior over breed stereotypes, supporting both animal welfare and fair access to homeowner's insurance.

[Read AKC's talking points](#) for more information on this issue.

## What You Can Do

- Contact [Representative Tomilson](#) and thank her for introducing the legislation.
- Contact [Representative Brandon Markosek](#), House Housing and Community Development Committee Chair and ask him to hold a committee hearing and vote on HB 1515.
- Contact the [members](#) (click on member's name) of the House Housing and Community Development Committee and ask them to support the bill and encourage the Committee Chair to hold a hearing and vote on the bill.
- Contact your [State Representative](#) and ask them to support the bill and encourage the House Housing and Community Development chair to hold a hearing and vote on the bill.

For more information, contact AKC's Government Relations Department at (919) 816-3720, or email [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).

AKC GR and our partner the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs will continue to monitor this and other legislation the impact the rights of dog owners and the dogs they love.