



BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

Position Statement

“GUARDIAN” v. OWNER

The Bulldog Club of America promotes the health and welfare of dogs and recognizes the crucial role of responsible owners in caring for their dogs. Any change in terminology describing the relationship between animals and owners, including "guardian," does not strengthen this relationship. As noted by the American Veterinary Medical Association such changes in terminology may adversely affect the ability of society to obtain and deliver animal services and, ultimately, result in animal suffering.

Use of the term guardian may reduce the legal status and value of dogs as property and thereby restrict the rights of owners, veterinarians, and government agencies to protect and care for dogs. It may also subject them to frivolous and expensive litigation.

The term guardian does nothing to promote more responsible treatment of dogs. We strongly support efforts to educate the public about responsible dog ownership to ensure that all dogs receive the care, love, and attention they deserve.

Therefore, BCA supports the use of the term “owner” rather than “guardian” when referring to the keeping of dogs.