



IRVINE, CALIFORNIA POISED TO BAN PET SALES

**** OCTOBER 11th HEARING SCHEDULED ****

The Issue:

Despite broad opposition, indications are that a majority of the [Irvine City Council](#) is prepared to bow to animal rights extremists and vote in favor of an ordinance Tuesday night that would ban the sale of dogs and cats, as well as circuses, rodeos and other animal exhibitions. **The [proposed ordinance](#) has no provisions seeking to actually improve standards to which these animals would be subject, but only institutes a punitive ban that penalizes the animals themselves as well as the people of Irvine, California. All people who love pets and other animals are urged to attend the Tuesday hearing and voice opposition to this ban!**

The Impact:

PIJAC and many others have been in contact with the City of Irvine as actual language for the proposed ordinance was being crafted. Ultimately, the final proposal still imposes the following:

1. Prohibition of retail sale of dogs/puppies and cats/kittens from stores located in Irvine, with a “grandfather” provision that would protect the one store in Irvine that currently sells pets for some defined period.
2. Mandating that dogs and cats over the age of six months be spayed or neutered when the animal is stray and picked up by Animal Control or housed at the Animal Care Center for the third time; and
3. Prohibition of performances featuring large or exotic animals in Irvine (e.g., rodeos, or circuses featuring elephants, lions and tigers).

This initiative reflects an ongoing campaign by extremists who wish to limit the availability of pets to the public, and the ability of the public to observe or participate in activities involving animals. The Irvine proposal (delivered in the form of a memo from the Mayor) is the result of meetings between the Mayor and local animal welfare proponents. In an initial motion to draft this proposal, the City Council voted 4-1 to move forward. PIJAC and others are urging the City Council to consider rational regulation to protect the welfare of animals, rather than punitive bans.

PIJAC Position:

PIJAC strongly supports the right of pet owners to have options as to where they obtain their animals based on the pet owner's individual circumstances, needs and preferences. Pet stores provide healthy, responsibly raised pets to the public, and should serve as one of the options pet owners may turn to in choosing a companion animal. Discriminatory bans against the sale of animals by pet stores are poor public policy, and are harmful to pets and pet owners. Such bans do not benefit animals or the pet owning public.

Recommended Action:

A public hearing on this proposed ordinance is scheduled for Tuesday October 11, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., to be held in the City Council Chamber at One Civic Center Plaza, Irvine, CA. It is imperative that **those who are concerned about the continued right to pet ownership appear at this hearing and voice opposition to this proposal.**

You may wish to make the following points, in your own words:

- Contrary to the claims of some advocates, research demonstrates that pet store puppies are as healthy, or healthier, than puppies from any other source.
- Most pet stores obtain their puppies from responsible breeders, and customers choosing pet store puppies overwhelmingly end up with healthy and well-socialized pets.
- A ban targeting pet stores to protect animals is not rational. Pet stores are already more heavily regulated than any other source of animals.
- Regulations on business should be based on a rational relationship between the restrictions and a goal serving the public interest. This proposal does not meet that standard.

Those having questions about this proposal should contact PIJAC's Michael Maddox via email at michael@pijac.org or by phone at 202-452-1525, ext. 106.

PIJAC Members! PIJAC Fans! Join US...

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has been protecting and promoting responsible pet ownership for nearly forty years. Follow our successes, events, and action alerts through Facebook and/or Twitter at PIJAC4pets. If you are not already a Member, please join us today by visiting www.pijac.org/membership. For additional information on PIJAC and its many exciting campaigns, please visit: www.pijac.org. Or, contact us at 1-800-553-PETS (1-800-553-7387); members@pijac.org.

On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!