



MOTION MADE TO BAN PET SALES IN LOS ANGELES, CA

The Issue:

Los Angeles, California City [Councilmember Paul Koretz](#) has proposed a motion to ban the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats, chickens and rabbits within city limits. The motion also calls for the establishment of a program in which the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services would work with licensed pet stores to make shelter animals available for adoption at pet stores. The city's Department of Animal Services and other in-city agencies would be charged with crafting an ordinance to effect the ban.

The Impact:

In his motion, Councilmember Koretz claims that “pet shops selling live animals have traditionally been a sales outlet for young dogs and cats bred in ‘puppy mills’ and ‘kitten mills,’ both within the United States and, abroad.” The motion also states that, “puppies and kittens that aren't placed with shops or sold to consumers unfortunately all too often end up being dumped in animal shelters where they become statistics in an ongoing tragedy.”

The initiative calls for the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Attorney and the Los Angeles Police Department, to study and make recommendations to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners and the City Council on the following proposed outcomes:

- The establishment of a ban on the sale of commercial animal mill-bred dogs, cats, chickens and rabbits within the city limit;
- The creation of a program whereby LAAS can work with licensed pet stores to make shelter animals available for adoption at those stores on a regular or periodic basis;
- The creation of a program whereby LAAS, as a part of its normal pet store licensing procedures, publicly and visibly identifies stores that excel in meeting rigorous humane requirements and conditions in the kenneling and sale of animals consistent with all City, state and federal laws, or which do not sell live animals; and
- The prohibition of the establishment and/or operation of puppy, kitten, chicken and rabbit mills within the City of Los Angeles.

PIJAC Position:

The motion advanced by Councilmember Koretz employs terms such as “puppy mill” and “kitten mill” that are merely pejorative and have no legal meaning, and makes unsound conclusions that have no basis in fact. PIJAC supports the adoption of relinquished pets and will continue to work with pet stores to achieve this goal. A ban on the sale of pet store animals, however, does nothing to reduce unwanted populations or benefit animal welfare.

Recommended Action:

All persons who support the right to breed, sell and have pets should contact [members of the Los Angeles City Council](#) to express opposition to this initiative. Let the Council members know that limiting people’s right to get a pet (as Councilmember Koretz’s proposal would do) only hurts animals as well as the pet-owning public. You may wish to make the following points (using your own words):

- Studies demonstrate that pet store animals are generally very healthy.
- The vast majority of pet owners choosing a pet store animal are very happy with their pet.
- Research shows that very few shelter animals originated from pet stores.
- The proposed ban targets responsible breeders, not substandard facilities.
- Banning pets hurts pet owners and pet animals alike.
- Promoting adoption of pets does not require banning pets.

This initiative must still be approved by City Council after appropriate review. PIJAC will issue an updated *PetAlert* with further recommendations upon a change in status. For specific questions or additional information about this proposal, contact PIJAC’s Bambi Osborne via email at bambi@pijac.org or by phone at 202-452-1525 ext 105. You may also visit the [Breaking News](#) page of PIJAC’s website for updates on the status of the proposal.

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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!