



PIJAC E-News

Companion animal news you need to know ...

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council • www.pijac.org



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TOP NEWS

PIJAC Receives Support From Industry Leaders. PIJAC thanks APPA, PIDA, and WPA for their recent commitment for continued financial support, and PETCO and PetSmart for the additional funds they are contributing in 2010. [Click here](#) for the PIJAC Press Release. For the *Pet Product News* story [click here](#).

AQUATICS

No aquatic-specific issues at this time. Please see Invasive/Non-native Species for broader issues that include aquatics.

AVIAN

No avian-specific issues at this time. Please see Invasive/Non-native Species for broader issues that include birds.

BREEDER/KENNEL

Federal. The U.S. Congress has again introduced companion bills (the Puppy Uniform Protection & Safety Act) to expand restrictions under the Animal Welfare Act. [H.R. 5434](#) and [S.3424](#) would modify the current retail exemption relative to “high volume breeders” and incorporate new requirements for the exercise of dogs, including facility standards for exercise areas. The proposal would regulate internet sales. Both bills are in committee awaiting their first committee hearing. Read PIJAC’s [PetAlert](#) for additional information about these bills and about how you can contact your Representative/Senator.

Georgia. The Georgia Department of Agriculture held a public hearing on July 1st where it adopted proposed amendments which increase licensing fees for animal shelters, kennels, pet dealers, bird dealers and stables by 100%. PIJAC submitted comments in opposition to these dramatic and unsupportable fee increases, stating that the proposal is excessive, particularly for smaller entities operating on very small margins. [Click here](#) to view the Georgia Department of Agriculture’s newly adopted fee schedule.

Louisiana. [Louisiana House Bill 313](#) passed the Louisiana Legislature and was signed by the Governor on June 2nd. This bill changes dog kennel license fee levels set forth in current law from a maximum fee to a minimum fee, thereby allowing a municipality or parish to set fees as high as they wish.

Ohio. Dog breeding kennels have been targeted in Ohio companion bills. [House Bill 124](#) and [Senate Bill 95](#) set licensing and insurance requirements for dog breeding kennels and provide pet store warranty provisions on dog sales. HB 124 is still in its original committee, however, SB 95 has been substituted and currently sits on the Senate Calendar awaiting further action. PIJAC has submitted committee testimony on both bills and has disseminated two [PetAlerts](#) on this issue.

DOG/CAT

Connecticut. The Connecticut General Assembly passed and the Governor signed [Senate Bill 274](#) which sets standards for tethering and caging of dogs. The new law provides definitions for what is considered an “unreasonable” manner of confinement as well as fines.

Delaware. Delaware also proposed tethering legislation which would have set temperature, time of day, and time limits for tethering. [House Bill 466](#) would have placed restrictions on tethering dogs for extended periods of time and in inclement weather. The bill died on the House Calendar when the Delaware General Assembly adjourned for the 2010 session on June 30th.

Louisiana. Louisiana legislation mandating tethering standards was signed by the Governor on July 6th. [House Bill 219](#) makes it unlawful for an owner to leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a tether, fasten, chain, tie, or restraint. Violators will face a \$300 penalty.

Louisiana. LA also introduced [House Bill 1328](#) which would have required owners of dangerous dogs to maintain liability insurance to remedy any personal injury inflicted by the animal. This bill died when the Louisiana Legislature adjourned for the 2010 session.

Rhode Island. Four pieces of similar legislation pertaining to tethering were introduced in Rhode Island in the 2009-2010 session. [House Bill 6135/Senate Bill 23](#) (2009 session) and [House Bill 7319/Senate Bill 2022](#) (2010 session) would have established proper care, water and veterinary standards as well as specifics on tethering lengths and time periods. House Bill 7319/Senate Bill 2022 would have granted the Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals police powers to enforce the proposed requirements. All four bills died in committee when the Rhode Island General Assembly adjourned.

Rhode Island. RI also targeted entities selling or adopting cats in [Senate Bill 2249](#). The legislation called for mandatory spay/neuter exempting cats specifically offered for breeding purposes. Violators would have faced fines of up to \$300. The bill died in committee upon adjournment of the General Assembly.

INVASIVE/NON-NATIVE SPECIES

New Mexico. The New Mexico Department of Fish & Game has proposed a [rule](#) creating a four "species importation lists" which would require permits for importation of most of the listed species. The lists ostensibly cover domesticated and non-domesticated animals that are invasive, dangerous or pose a public health and safety risk. Hundreds of species (such as saltwater fish, most freshwater fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians) that have never been a problem anywhere in the US would be banned in New Mexico without a permit. There appears to be no science based justification for the listings. And feeder animals such as crickets and worms would be banned because the State failed to include them on any list. Many commonly owned pet species would be banned. The criteria for obtaining the different permits are ambiguous. PIJAC disseminated a [PetAlert](#), collaborated with affected industry members in New Mexico, and submitted comments to the Department. PIJAC testified at the July 8 public hearing.

New York. New York [Assembly Bill 8475](#), provides for the prevention of the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species into and within the waters of the state. The bill contains travel restrictions in state waters pertaining to aquatic plants and animals. This bill currently sits in committee in the Assembly awaiting further action.

Invasive Species Toolkit. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has requested that PIJAC work with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) to develop a toolkit of best management practices to reduce the risk of escaped or released pets from becoming harmful to the environment (aka invasive species). This toolkit is on schedule to be released in October as an interactive website. Case studies are being solicited from the industry and governments worldwide.

PET ENCLOSURE

Hawaii. Legislation has been ratified in Hawaii clarifying standards for primary pet enclosures. The standards in [House Bill 2725](#) include specifications for safe housing, food and water access, sufficient space and more.

PET STORE/DEALER

Georgia. The Georgia Department of Agriculture held a public hearing on July 1st where it adopted proposed amendments which increase licensing fees for animal shelters, kennels, pet dealers, bird dealers and stables by 100%. For more details, see Georgia story under 'Breeder/Kennel' above.

New York. Companion legislation (Assembly Bill 10906 and Senate Bill 7655) in New York would subject pet stores to license suspension or revocation hearings based on mere allegations of a failure to meet licensing standards without ever being given the opportunity to challenge the allegations. Senate Bill 7655 was substituted for Assembly Bill 10906 on July 1st and currently sits on the Assembly Calendar awaiting further action. [Click here](#) to read PIJAC's *PetAlert* and view the most recent bill text.

New York. New York companion bills, Assembly Bill 10509 and Senate Bill 7511, would amend the existing Pet Dealer Act to mandate isolation areas, and specify requirements for veterinary care and exercise standards. Both bills are currently in the Senate awaiting further action. [Click here](#) to read PIJAC's *PetAlert*, view the latest bill text and take action!

San Francisco. Following a July 8, 2010 meeting of the San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare, at which a deluge of people appeared in order to voice opinions about a pending pet store ban, the Commission tabled a possible vote on the proposal. While the Commission had engaged in significant discussion on the scheme suggested by member Philip Gerrie it has yet to publish a written proposal. The initial suggestion by Mr. Gerrie was to recommend a ban on the sale of dogs and cats, but other Commission members have urged that the ban be expanded to cover other animals and the proposed ordinance could potentially include all pet animals. In testimony before the Commission, PIJAC's Michael Maddox stated that "there is no rational basis for targeting pet stores in a ban on animal sales" and he emphasized that the proposal is "a 'feel good' approach that only diverts attention away from efforts to really accomplish effective solutions." PIJAC urged opponents to attend the meeting in response to the anti-pet proposal, and it received broad media coverage as well. Pet store manager John Chan was quoted as saying of the ban "it's terrible. A pet store can't sell pets? It's ridiculous, we would have to go out of business." Because the Commission is an advisory body it does not have authority to adopt law, but its recommendations carry significant weight with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which would ultimately be responsible for adopting the ordinance. While this proposal has been tabled for the present, the Commission may still take action at a future meeting, and PIJAC is encouraging all those in San Francisco who support the right to have pets to continue communicating their concerns to the Commission, as well as to members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. [Click here](#) for PIJAC's *PetAlert* on this topic. To read the *Pet Product News* article on PIJAC's work on this proposed legislation, [click here](#).

REPTILE/AMPHIBIAN

Federal. [U.S. Senate Bill 373](#), which would include constrictor snakes of the species Python genera as injurious animals, was reported from committee on May 5th with an amendment from Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA). Visit [PIJAC's Python Forum](#) to read PIJAC's *PetAlerts* on this issue and for more background documentation.

Federal. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has granted [PIJAC's request](#) (along with several other organizations) for an additional time for public comments on its [proposal](#) to list nine species of large constrictors as 'injurious wildlife' under the Lacey Act. The Service has re-opened the comment period and the new due date is August 2, 2010. Monitor the PIJAC website's [Breaking News Page](#) and [PIJAC's Large Constrictor Blog](#) for the latest news on this issue.

Florida. In early June, Florida adopted [Senate Bill 318](#) requiring permits in order to allow certain continued activities involving conditional species (i.e., large constrictor species, Nile Monitors). This bill requires that commercial, research and breeding activities be clearly separate from pet ownership, and restricts sales to interstate and foreign commerce. Intrastate sales would only be between people who possess the required Florida permits. The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission later proposed a rulemaking, accepting public comments until June 11th, in order to finalize regulations implementing the new law. PIJAC disseminated a [PetAlert](#) and submitted comments to the Commission.

Louisiana. [Louisiana House Bill 1354](#) was signed by the Governor on June 30th. This bill provides that constrictor snakes in excess of eight feet and venomous snakes may only be kept by permit from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Violators face fines of up to \$1,000.

South Carolina. [South Carolina House Bill 4218](#) would have regulated venomous reptiles, constricting snakes and crocodilians. The bill, which died upon adjournment of the South Carolina Legislature, provided for specifications on housing, bite safety and escape protocols. The bill would have imposed penalties of up to \$2,500 for anyone who intentionally released one of the listed reptiles into the wild.

Please see also Invasive/Non-native Species for broader issues that include reptiles/amphibians.

SMALL MAMMALS

No small mammal-specific issues at this time. Please see Invasive/Non-native Species for broader issues that include small mammals.

2010 LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY SESSION OVERVIEW:

To date, PIJAC has screened over 7,000 pet industry-related bills, regulation proposals and ordinances, more than 600 of which we are closely tracking. Even though the 2009-2010 legislative session is beginning to wind down, 9 States, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Congress are still in session. Take a look at the [2010 Legislative Session Calendar](#) to see if your state is still in session.

JOIN PIJAC AND BECOME EVEN BETTER INFORMED

PIJAC membership is open to all segments of the pet industry, as well as individual pet enthusiasts. Pet-related businesses, please visit the PIJAC website for membership information: www.pijac.org or contact Ms. Nancy Knutson, Director of Member Services: members@pijac.org. Individual pet enthusiasts, please join through our “Don’t Mess with My Pet™” campaign: www.dontmesswithmypet.com. You can stay even better informed about our activities and accomplishments by following us on Facebook and Twitter at: PIJAC4pets.

CONTACT US

If you need more information on government affairs issues, please contact Mr. Michael Maddox, Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel at: michael@pijac.org.

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