



## ILLINOIS BREEDER-PET STORE TASK FORCE TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY

**\*\* SEPTEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> MEETING SCHEDULED \*\***

### The Issue.

The task force established by Senate Joint Resolution No. 56 (SJR 56) is scheduled to hold a September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting at which it will receive testimony from all interested parties concerning recommended legislation. The task force, which has already met multiple times, may be nearing finalization of a draft bill to recommend for introduction in the next legislative session. **This bill will have a profound impact on persons who breed or sell dogs in the state of Illinois. Anybody who does so should make certain to attend in order to offer their views!**

### The Impact.

SJR 56 was adopted to facilitate a process for evaluating possible amendments to current law involving the licensing and regulation of those in the pet dog trade. The resolution charges the Department of Agriculture with the duty to chair the task force, which is directed to consider the following issues:

- humane care and treatment for dogs at pet stores and breeding facilities;
- creating more specific requirements for indoor and outdoor kennel facilities to ensure the health and welfare of dogs used for commercial purposes;
- establishing more detailed specifications so that indoor and outdoor facilities provide dogs with proper shelter, temperature control, ventilation, air movement, lighting, bedding, sanitation, slope of ground and run, and flooring materials;
- creating more detailed recordkeeping requirements for breeders and pet stores;
- ensuring that consumers are provided adequate information prior to the time of sale of dogs;
- ensuring that dogs being sold are healthy; and
- amending animal welfare laws to address these specific issues as well as broader issues that could be addressed through such laws.

The Task Force will be accepting testimony on all of these issues at its September 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Failure to attend this meeting may deprive you of any opportunity to respond to proposed changes before they are included in a draft bill!**



## **Recommended Action.**

Because the task force will be offering specific recommendations for establishing new legal requirements to which breeders and pet stores will be subject, and because the task force has set the hearing on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as the one at which it will accept testimony from the public, it is critical that people attend the meeting and offer their input. In addition to providing testimony, you may wish to speak directly to the Department and members of the Task Force (before, during or after the meeting) about issues of concern, and about the need for continued participation in the future.

**The meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2009 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Room 801 East Sangamon Avenue (Artisan's Building), in Springfield, Illinois. It is necessary to contact the Department by September 25, 2009, in writing, in order to get on the list of speakers. Written comments or requests to speak should be submitted to:**

**Mark J. Ernst, D.V.M.  
State Veterinarian/Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare  
Illinois Department of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 19281 – State Fairgrounds  
801 East Sangamon Avenue  
Springfield, IL 67294-9281**

The Department is also offering the opportunity to provide written input throughout this process via its website at [www.agr.state.il.us](http://www.agr.state.il.us). Questions concerning the Task Force and the process it is utilizing in its work may be directed to Jeff Williams, who may be reached at 217-782-9013.

PIJAC will continue to update members about changes in the status of the Task Force's work on the Breaking News page of its website at [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org). Should you have further questions, feel free to contact PIJAC's Michael Maddox by phone at 202-452-1525 or by email at [michael@pijac.org](mailto:michael@pijac.org).

### **Not Yet a PIJAC Member?**

For more than thirty-five years, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) has ensured the prosperity of the pet industry. To learn more about PIJAC, please visit our website at [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org). For further information, please send an e-mail to [Members@pijac.org](mailto:Members@pijac.org) or phone 1-800-553-PETS (1-800-553-7387).

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