



ULSTER COUNTY, NEW YORK POISED TO ADOPT PET STORE MANDATE

**** HEARING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 29TH ****

The Issue:

The Ulster County, New York Legislature has scheduled a [proposed animal abuse registry ordinance](#) for a Tuesday November 29, 2011 public hearing. The proposal to establish a registry of all “domestic animal abuse offenders” within Ulster County also includes a **prohibition against the sale of any domestic animal by a pet store or other “pet seller.”** Fines for selling exchanging or otherwise transferring ownership of a domestic animal are **\$2,500.00 per violation**.

The Issue:

As proposed, the ordinance charges the Ulster County Sheriff with establishing and maintaining a registry for persons 16 years of age or older who have been convicted of a Domestic Animal Abuse crime on or after the effective date of the ordinance. Pet sellers, defined as anyone who “offers domestic animals for sale or is engaged in the sale, exchange, or other transfer of ownership of domestic animals,” would then be prohibited from selling, exchanging or transferring a domestic animal to any person listed in the registry.

Because domestic animals are not defined by this proposal, the ordinance **would bar pet sellers from transferring any animals, including crickets, fish and other small animals**, without first checking the registry. Those found to be in violation are subject to a fine of \$2,500.00 for each incident involving a violation. This proposed ordinance means that a pet store cashier would be required to conduct an Internet search essentially every time he or she handled a sale. Furthermore, it would be necessary to obtain **official photo identification from every single customer** to assure the proper identification of that individual when conducting the registry search.

PIJAC Position:

PIJAC supports reasonable laws to protect the welfare of animals and to sanction inhumane treatment of animals. PIJAC opposes the imposition of excessive burdens on pet dealers by local governments, particularly where a state licensing statute already establishes comprehensive requirements for pet dealers, which is the case in New York. Furthermore, a requirement for pet dealers to check an online registry presumes the availability of internet access which many pet dealers do not possess.

Recommended Action:

A public hearing on this proposal is scheduled for November 29, 2011 beginning at 7:05 p.m. The hearing will be held in the Legislative Chambers of the Ulster County Office Building at 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY.

All sellers of animals are strongly encouraged to [contact each member of the County Legislature](#) to express their opposition to the **pet seller mandate** component of this proposal **prior to the public hearing** and to attend the public hearing to register objection as well.

Those with questions or concerns regarding this proposal should contact PIJAC's Michael Maddox at 202-452-1525 or via email at Michael@pijac.org.

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!