



**PET INDUSTRY JOINT
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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PIJAC LEADS WAY ON OHIO REPTILE BAN

PIJAC CALLS FOR LETTERS TO OHIO GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH

The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) called on reptile owners in Ohio to write letters to Ohio Gov. John Kasich today to permanently halt the enforcement of a ban on large constrictors that was recently adopted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. While the regulation has gone into effect, PIJAC is calling for a more deliberate evaluation of this ban, and asking pet owners to voice their concerns. Mike Canning, PIJAC's President and CEO stated, "We feel that Ohioans should have the right to own constrictors—they make great pets and are safe if handled correctly." He added, "The pet industry, pet owners and government leaders should come together and address educational requirements for owners of large constrictors, not issue a ban on them."

Anyone who currently has possession of a large constrictor may keep the animal, **but must register it with the state by May 1, 2011**. Owners must register the animal every year until the animal's death. This rule also places certain restrictions on selling and transferring these animals, such as limiting the sale and transfer only to zoos, aquariums, wildlife sanctuaries, and family members with permission from the department. Out-of-state sales will only be permitted until January 6, 2016.

"We felt that PIJAC should energize its members in Ohio by asking them to personally get involved in seeking Governor Kasich's commitment to respect the right to own these often misunderstood companion animals," said Michael Maddox, PIJAC's General Counsel and Vice President of Government Affairs. "We are confident our members will communicate their objections to the Governor about enforcing this ban on pets," he added.

[Click here](#) to read PIJAC's *PetAlert*, posted on the [Breaking News page](#) of the PIJAC website.

PIJAC membership is open to all segments of the pet industry, as well as individual pet owners. For information on how you can join, please contact Nancy Knutson, Director of Member Services, at members@pijac.org.

For more information on PIJAC, please visit: www.pijac.org.

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PIJAC's mission is to promote responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, foster environmental stewardship and ensure the availability of pets.