



PIJAC: WORKING FOR YOU

PIJAC Adopts New Strategic Plan & Governance Policy

On March 25, the PIJAC Board of Directors unanimously adopted a new strategic plan and governance policy. The strategic plan is intended to guide PIJAC operations from 2010-2012. It focuses on building a strong financial base and governance structure. It also calls for new hires as funds permit, including a full-time President. According to the strategic plan, popular projects such as the Animal Care Certification program and the Habitattitude™ campaign will benefit from updating and expansion.

Adoption of the governance policy serves to fulfill one of the top priorities in the strategic plan. The policy, developed in partnership between the Board and staff, follows the world-renowned "Carver Model." It clearly sets forth the roles and responsibilities of the collective Board, individual Board members, and the CEO/President.

At the same meeting, the PIJAC Board elected new officers to serve during 2010. The officers will guide implementation of both the strategic plan and governance policy. The new officers include: Jim Heim, Chairman/President; Frank Koch, 1st Vice President; Jim Seidewand, 2nd Vice President; and Ced Damby, Secretary/Treasurer.

According to Jim Heim, "The strategic plan and governance policy mark the beginning of a very focused initiative by PIJAC to strengthen its operational platform. We are ensuring that the stage is set to support our ongoing successes and eventual expansion."

Both the strategic plan and governance policy are intended to be flexible, internal documents which will be updated as necessary. PIJAC is already at work on a longer-term strategic plan which will provide direction through the end of 2014.

Over the coming months, watch for PIJAC to implement additional elements of the strategic plan, including a comprehensive fundraising strategy, new fundraising campaigns,



revised website, and a twice monthly electronic update that will keep PIJAC's members and friends up-to-date on the organization's activities and accomplishments.

"This is a very exciting time to be part of PIJAC," says Frank Koch. "It's clear that PIJAC is not only experienced enough to anticipate the changing needs of this industry, but it will also have the capacity to meet those needs through its leadership, technical expertise, and expanded initiatives." ■

National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW)

Invasive species (harmful non-native species) legislation is increasingly impacting the pet industry at Federal, state, and local levels. PIJAC has been proactively and constructively addressing the issue for nearly 20 years.

The first National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW) was held in Washington, DC, on 11-14 January 2010. The meeting was co-organized by Dr. Jamie K. Reaser, PIJAC's Vice President of Environmental Policy & Communications. Dr. Reaser is one of the top experts on invasive species and represents PIJAC on the US Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC), a White House-appointed group that advises the Federal government on invasive species issues.

This year's NISAW event focused on three themes: invasives/climate change,

invasives/energy, and invasives/the green economy. Dr. Reaser spoke on the "invasive species and energy issues" panel, and organized/facilitated the session on invasive species and the green economy. Michael Maddox, PIJAC's Vice President of Government Affairs & General Counsel, participated on a "special issues" panel addressing challenges and opportunities to Lacey Act revision. The more than 130 meeting registrants included Federal and state officials, non-profit and private sector leaders, and academics.

An evening reception on Capitol Hill provided participants with the opportunity to interact with Congressional staffers working on invasive species issues for Senator Reid, among others.

For more information, contact Dr. Reaser at Jamie@pijac.org. ■

PIJAC HAS MOVED!

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Legislative & Regulatory News

STATE NEWS

So far, in 2010, 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 for many states, 17 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Congress are still in session. The following is a synopsis of some of the hot bills we have encountered this year. For more detailed information on each of these bills and a complete list of all PIJAC *PetAlerts* please visit the PIJAC website at www.pijac.org under "Breaking News".

SNAKES/AMPHIBIANS/OTHER REPTILES

Numerous states have introduced legislation banning certain reptiles and species of pythons.

Florida. Bills have been introduced in both houses of the Florida legislature prohibiting Burmese pythons, reticulated pythons, African Rock pythons, Amethystine or scrub pythons, Anacondas, Nile monitors and any other reptile designated as a reptile of concern by the state for "personal use"; therefore, essentially banning them as pets. **House Bill 709** and **Senate Bill 318**, later combined into one bill, **SB 318**, provides certain exceptions allowing current reptile owners to obtain a permit to keep their reptiles for the remainder of the animal's life. **SB 318** is currently being sent to the Governor for signature.

Georgia. **Senate Bill 303** would have required a wild animal license be obtained in order to import, transfer, transport, sell, purchase or possess Burmese pythons, reticulated pythons, African Rock pythons, Amethystine or scrub pythons and green anacondas. The Senate Committee on Natural Resources held hearings on the bill and it received an "unfavorable report". No further action was taken on the bill and it died when the legislative session ended in March.

Louisiana. Legislation attempting to ban possession of certain reptiles and amphibians has been introduced in Louisiana.

House Bill 1354 would require wholesale/retail dealers to obtain permits for the sale, importation, or handling of native reptile and amphibian species, as well as permits for private possession of constrictor snakes over eight feet long and listed venomous snakes. The bill passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources on May 24th and awaits further action.

New Mexico. A proposed rulemaking has been introduced by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish amending existing regulations regarding the importation of non-native species. The proposed rule creates a "species importation list" that would require permits for importation of listed species—regardless of whether the animals were wild caught or captive bred. Ownership of these species as pets without a permit would be banned. The proposal does not clarify the status of banned species already within New Mexico as pets or those that are being propagated in the state. The "list" provides hundreds of species in which most CITES Appendix I, II and III animals would be banned or require a permit. The Department accepted comments on the proposal until June 4th, and also held a public Commission meeting on June 3rd. This rulemaking could shut down all business of listed species in New Mexico, so immediate attention is required by anyone affected.

Ohio. On May 5th, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources adopted a rule setting forth season dates, bag limits, record keeping standards and permit requirements for certain reptiles and amphibians. The rule provides season dates and bag limits for bullfrogs, green frogs, snapping turtles and softshell turtles. With the adoption of this rule, a permit must be obtained in order to buy, sell, barter or trade any reptile or amphibian from the wild in Ohio with the exception of snapping turtles and softshell

turtles. Any person possessing, buying, selling, trading, bartering, receiving or gifting reptiles or amphibians is also required to maintain records including information such as birth dates of the animals, location of capture and length of all reptiles and amphibians taken from the wild by species, and much more.

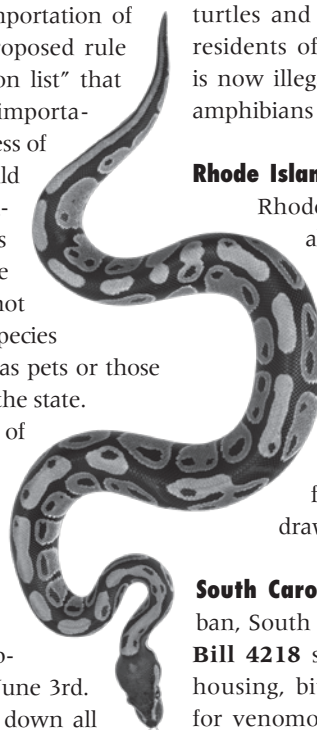
Also, the rule calls for passive integrated transponders for snakes with a snout-vent length of 18 inches or greater, and for all turtles with a straight-line carapace length of 4 inches or greater, except snapping turtles and softshell turtles. Furthermore, residents of Ohio should be aware that it is now illegal to release many reptiles and amphibians into the wild.

Rhode Island. Legislation was proposed in Rhode Island banning ownership of alligators, crocodiles, pythons and boas. **Senate Bill 2027** did not specifically specify species of the listed animal families, but rather makes an across-the-board ban and proposes fines of \$1,000+ for violators. However, with opposition from PIJAC, the bill was withdrawn from further consideration.

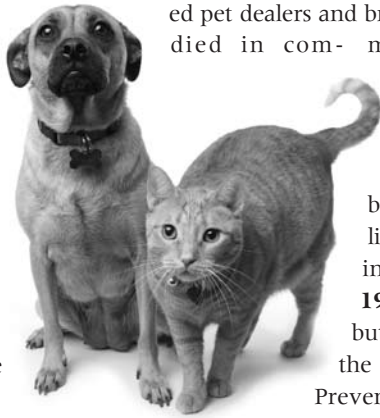
South Carolina. Though not presenting a ban, South Carolina has introduced **House Bill 4218** setting forth specifications on housing, bite safety and escape protocols for venomous reptiles, constricting snakes and crocodylians. The bill makes it unlawful for a person to own, possess, use, transport, or traffic in these animals in a non-sturdy and non-secure enclosure. The bill also provides that any person who intentionally releases into the wild a nonnative venomous reptile, a large constricting snake, or a crocodylian is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to fines of up to \$2,500 or imprisoned for up to six months. **HB 4218** is still in its original committee.

DOG/CAT

Commercial dog breeders and kennels have also been the target of legislative contention in many states.



Iowa. Iowa presented three pieces of legislation pertaining to commercial pet establishments. Companion bills, **House Bill 2280** and **Senate Bill 2233**, have been adopted and the law now requires all commercial pet establishments in Iowa to become "authorized" by the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The authorization fee for a commercial kennel, defined as those who keep more than six dogs in a 12-month period, is \$150 while fees for pet shops and commercial breeders have not yet been determined. Also, Iowa **Senate Study Bill 3126** was introduced proposing to raise issuance fees for certificates of registration from \$20 to \$100 for persons who operate commercial kennels, public auctions and as a dealer or commercial breeder. **SSB 3126** bill died in committee when the session adjourned in March.



Louisiana. **House Bill 313** would change dog kennel license fee levels set forth in current law from a maximum fee to a minimum fee, therefore allowing a municipality or parish to set fees as high as they wish. Presently, the governing body of each municipality or parish is permitted to set the amount for an annual kennel license fee at no more than \$15 if a person has no more than five dogs over the age of six months, \$25 for five to 10 dogs, and \$30 for more than 10 dogs.

HB 313 would eliminate language that calls for these fee levels to be the maximum charged, and instead sets such fee levels as the minimum to be charged. By changing the language and removing the cap, there would be no limit on how high governing bodies of municipalities and parishes could raise individual fee levels. **HB 313** was signed by Governor Jindal on June 2, 2010.

Maryland. PIJAC testified before the Senate Finance Committee against Senate Bill 505 aimed at prohibiting retail pet stores from selling or taking certain other actions with a dog less than nine months old. PIJAC testified that the bill was anti-business and detrimental to the socialization of dogs. The Senate Finance Committee tabled the bill after the hearing, and it officially died on April 21st when the legislative session adjourned.

Minnesota. **House Bill 3385** would have regulated commercial breeding activities in Minnesota. The bill defined a "commercial breeder" as "anyone who possesses 20 or more adult intact animals and who produces more than five total litters of puppies or kittens per year". It also assigned the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to regulate breeding activities and set forth licensing and inspection requirements. Some of the penalties presented in the bill also would have affected pet dealers and brokers as well. **HB 3385** died in committee as the Minnesota Legislature adjourned on May 16th.

Missouri. New dog breeder standards and a limit law were introduced in Missouri. **House Bill 1921** died in committee, but would have established the "The Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act" setting standards of care for dog breeders, such

as housing, food and veterinary care. The bill would have also imposed that no person may own more than 50 intact dogs over the age of four months at any time for purposes of breeding. The bill purported contradictions between state/local requirements and federal Animal Welfare Act standards.

Oklahoma. Four bills creating four separate "Acts" relating to dog breeders have been issued in the Sooner State. **Senate Bill 1340** establishes the "Kennel Definitions Act" to regulate licensing, operating and inspection of animal care facilities. The bill died in the House Committee on Economic Development & Financial Services on May 28, 2010 when the Oklahoma Legislature adjourned for the 2009-2010 session.

Senate Bill 1712 was adopted creating the "Commercial Pet Breeders Act" to govern breeders and provide licensure requirements. **Senate Bill 2186** proposing the "Companion Pet Protection Act" targets breeders by setting requirements for the sale of certain animals as well as breeder facilities. **SB 2186** remains in Senate Appropriations awaiting committee hearing.

Another piece of legislation, **House Bill 2745**, would have created the "Pet Quality Assurance and Protection Act" that would require licensure for any person who sells, gives away or transfers 35 or more dogs

and cats. **HB 2745** passed out of the House Committee on Economic Development & Financial Services in early February, but died on May 28, 2010 when the Oklahoma Legislature adjourned.

West Virginia.

Two bills were introduced in West Virginia targeting dog breeders. **House Bill 2699** would have banned a person from breeding "an aggressive or vicious dog" unless the person had an appropriate, escape-proof area for the dog(s) and posted signage identifying the area as "potentially dangerous due to dog breeding".

Senate Bill 147 would have prohibited commercial breeders from maintaining more than 40 dogs at a time and provided new licensing and recording keeping requirements. Commercial breeders found in violation of the standards of **SB 147** would have faced misdemeanor charges and fines of up to \$2500. However, both bills died at the end of the legislative session.

AQUATIC

Hawaii. Hawaii companion bills, **House Bill 191** and **Senate Bill 75**, would have established limits on the kinds of aquatic life that may be collected for aquariums.

The bills proposed establishing an "aquarium collecting list" in which species not listed could be collected or sold for aquarium purposes in the state. Both bills died in their respective committees when the Hawaii Legislature adjourned on May 1, 2010.

FEDERAL NEWS

Banning constrictor snakes is a hot topic at the federal level in 2010. **U.S. Senate Bill 373**, which would include nine constrictor snakes of the species Python genera as injurious animals, was reported from the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works on May 5th with an amendment from Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA). You can visit PIJAC's Python Forum for this bill's latest status and to view more background documentation. (<http://www.pijac.org/governmentaffairs/s373forum.asp>)

While the comment period has closed on a **proposed rulemaking** to list nine species of large constrictors as 'injurious wildlife' under the Lacey Act, an additional opportunity has been granted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) at request of PIJAC

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Education and Certification News

Congratulations to the following people who recently earned PIJAC Certified Animal Specialist credentials. For more information contact Nancy Knutson at nancy@pijac.org.

AVIAN (CAS)

Aintablian, Yvonne A.
Pasadena, CA

Aliaga, Mauricio
Garden Grove, CA

Allison, Kristen
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Arnett, Eddie Thomas
Oxnard, CA

Arredondo, Julio
San Dimas, CA

Baker, Laurie E.
Concord, CA

Baker, Marianda
Carmichael, CA

Battaglia, Stephen
San Mateo, CA

Benn, Katie
Costa Mesa, CA

Boynton, Jamie L.
Ione, CA

Brown, Dennis
San Francisco, CA

Burch, Michelle
Fortuna, CA

Capriato, Cara
Fairfield, CA

Cardella, Marisol
Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Castle, Deanna
San Dimas, CA

Chacon, Teri
Austell, GA

Chin, Courtney
New York, NY

Christy, Pandora
Spotsylvania, VA

Clarkson, Dana
Taft, CA

Cole, Amber
Wilton, CA

Cook, Ricky
San Diego, CA

Cox, Jeffery H.
Cathedral City, CA

Crockett, Rob
Huntington Beach, CA

Cummings-Hogan,
Rebekah
Roseville, CA

Davis, Dennis A.
Bakersfield, CA

Davis, Pamela J.
Livingston, CA

Day, Bliss
Citrus Heights, CA

Depaep, Maricor E.
Los Angeles, CA

Dewhirst, Jennifer
La Quinta, CA

DiBella, Anthony
Kensington, CT

Dodero, Paul
Pittsburg, CA

Dutra, Kimberly A.
Tracy, CA

Edwards, Crystal
Ventura, CA

Ellien, Heather
Los Banos, CA

Ellien, Linda L.
Los Banos, CA

Ensz, Michele
Sioux Falls, SD

Estrada, William
Long Beach, CA

Estrada, Suzanna R.
Vista, CA

Feusi, James
Folsom, CA

Forgette, Joann
Flagler Beach, FL

Fox, Robert
Oceanside, CA

Frost, Stacey
Martinez, CA

Futoma, Patricia J.
Kensington, CT

Garrou, Donna
Orange, CA

Garcia, Angela
Spring Valley, CA

Garcia, Lisset
Los Angeles, CA

Garsee, Sharon
Sacramento, CA

Green, Paul C.
Hanford, CA

Greenawald, R. Barry
Etters, PA

Guerrero, Alyssa
Fallbrook, CA

Haines, Jacqueline R.
Redondo Beach, CA

Hamlin, Brian
San Jose, CA

Hardy, Tom
Helmet, CA

Hastings, Derrick
Mission Viejo, CA

Hatcher, Trina L.
Rio Rancho, NM

Hilario, Francis D.
Upper Darby, PA

Hooper, Tyler
Mission Viejo, CA

Hurd, Josephine
Bakersfield, CA

Jenkins, Carla
San Bernardino, CA

Jenkins, John Juston
Chico, CA

Jennings, Danyelle L.
San Leonardo, CA

Jimenez, Nannette
Chino, CA

Kane, Barbara J.
Killeen, TX

Kelly, Lauren
Daly City, CA

Kibbe, Stephanie
San Dimas, CA

Kirby, Karra K.
Buena Park, CA

Lane, Chris
San Francisco, CA

Lallas, Nathan
Oakley, CA

Lee, David
Placerville, CA

Lemmerman, Daniel
Morgan Hill, CA

Lenaburg, Renee S.
Long Beach, CA

Leslie, Scott Earl
Oceanside, CA

Livingston, Jessica R.
Woodland Hills, CA

Lockwood, Erika Jean
Los Angeles, CA

Lombardi, Michael
Alonzo
Santa Rosa, CA

Madge, Christopher Paul
Brentwood, CA

Marin, Jennifer Lee
Fontana, CA

Marshall, Jason
Temecula, CA

Matsuda, Ron
Van Nuys, CA

McMasters, Adam
Richard
Petaluma, CA

Melau, Chris
La Quinta, CA

Middleton, Joshua D'e
San Pedro, CA

Miesle, Jeannine
West Chester, OH

Miller, Edward
Corona, CA

Mirabella, Kelly
San Jose, CA

Miser, Janelle
Riverside, CA

Miser, Lori
Riverside, CA

Moore, Marelle
Alhambra, CA

Moreno, Carmel
Santa Rosa, CA

Murphy-Akima, Lisa
Sue
Concord, CA

Nahay, Michelle
Nuevo, CA

Naylor, Karey K.
Antioch, CA

Nigro, Adriana
San Diego, CA

Nilges, Kelly M.
Canyon Country, CA

O'Marra, Cori
Anaheim, CA

Orelliana, Eric
Sun Valley, CA

Ortega, Matilda N.
Oxnard, CA

Padilla, Mathew
La Verne, CA

Page, Brendan J.
Rancho Cordova, CA

Palone, Rosemary
Fremont, CA

Patch, Paige M.
San Dimas, CA

Paz, Ricardo
Inglewood, CA

Pearson, Jeremy
San Mateo, CA

Pelham, Teresia Day
Woodland, CA

Pelletier, Phillip L.
Northridge, CA

Pereira, Jolene
Maple Ridge, BC

Price, Christie
Riverside, CA

Price, Sarah Lorraine
Berkley, CA

Pulliam, Kenny
Paso Robles, CA

Rauer, Daniel James
Rohnert Park, CA

Raymond, Mark
Roseville, CA

Raymond, Robert
Carmichael, CA

Real, Jessica
Oakland, CA

Reyner, David Jeremy
Stockton, CA

Rice, Jennifer A.
Martinez, CA

Roach, Jeffery
Jackson, CA

Rodriguez, Danilo A.
Pomona, CA

Roundtree, Tony
Highland, CA

Ruis, Ashly B.
Sunnyvale, CA

Ryan, Lisa G.
San Jose, CA

Sanchez, Elsa
Fullerton, CA

Sanchez, Ingrid
Chula Vista, CA

Sandoval, Charise
San Jose, CA

Schilke, Erin E.
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Schmidt, Michael A.
Anaheim, CA

Schneider, Susan C.
Pittsford, NY

Schwesinger, Flora
San Leandro, CA

Segura, Melissa
Murrieta, CA

Serrano, Cesar
Industry, CA

Sibilla, Andrew
Concord, CA

Siders, Mike
Los Angeles, CA

Smith, Joshua
Moorpark, CA

Smith, Shawn
Sacramento, CA

Sousley, April
Riverside, CA

Stegall, Jennifer A.
Bakersfield, CA

Tarlitz, Charlotte
Van Nuys, CA

Taylor, Kayla
Windsor, CA

Thompson, Johnny
Sacramento, CA

Tomihara, Kenji
Los Angeles, CA

Tompkins, Tomi M.
Marysville, CA

Torres-Bates, Josie
Ontario, CA

Tran, Joe
Mission Viejo, CA

Troisi, Robert
Franklin Lakes, NJ

Urrutia, Joseph J.
San Francisco, CA

Vander Vere, Elizabeth
Fair Oaks, CA

VanNortwick, Court-
ney S.
Fresno, CA

Wade, Natalie L.
Norwalk, CA

Wallace, Leza M.
Camp, CA

Wallace, Stephanie
Canyon Country, CA

Waters, Kelly
Santa Clara, CA

Weaver, Samantha A.
Fremont, CA

Westover, Rebecca
Kensington, CT

Williams, Mark
Redwood City, CA

Williamson, Matt
Murrieta, CA

Winklebleck, Lauren
Ashley
San Jose, CA

Wolski, Matt
Folsom, CA

Woodman, Justin
Pomona, CA

Zastrow, Doni
Magnolia, CA

CANINE (CCS)

Pelham, Teresia Day
Woodland, CA

Jamie K. Reaser, PhD

Vice President of Environmental Policy & Communications

Jamie's enthusiasm for pets started early in life; at the age of five she had filled her entire clothing bureau with shoe boxes housing "pet" plastic snakes, lizards, and alligators. "I made sure to change the grass clippings and give them fresh water every week," she recalls with a smile.

Whenever possible, she went on grocery store runs with her mother so she could haunt the adjacent pet store. On each visit, the very patient store owner took it upon himself to teach her about different animals, and before long she was assisting amused customers with their selections.

"My mother had a very soft heart for dogs and cats, especially homeless cats," says Jamie. "I certainly inherited those sentiments, but much to my mother's dismay, my love for animals didn't stop there." At one point, Jamie counted 38 different aquaria and terraria in her room – housing fish, crayfish, anoles, hermit crabs, salamanders, toads, turtles, and snakes. Over the years, she also kept parakeets, finches, an umbrella cockatoo, gerbils, rabbits, and ducks.

Working with dogs became a passion for Jamie at the age of 13 when she joined the 4-H and began training puppies for the Seeing Eye Foundation. "It was a highly rewarding experience," she says. "Not only did I enjoy the dogs, but I had the opportunity to learn from highly professional handlers." In high school she became the manager of a show kennel specializing in Pembroke Welsh Corgis and won numerous junior handler awards. "It was one of the most fun ways to earn money for college that I could imagine," Jamie notes.

Jamie's college and graduate school work in Biology focused her professional expertise on wildlife conservation. However, her interest in companion animals has never waned. Today she shares her farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains with six cats,

eight Cashmere goats, and one high energy dog — all rescues.

Working with PIJAC enables Jamie to pursue her interests in wildlife and companion animals. "The two topics are intricately related," Jamie points out. "The invasive species issue inspires legislative challenges to pet availability, wild harvest for the pet trade can put certain native species at risk, diseases may be transmit-

ted between pets and wildlife, and people's appreciation for wildlife conservation is often rooted in an early childhood experience with a specific pet."

In 2010, Jamie looks forward to not only providing scientific advice to legislative initiatives, but also applying her expertise in communications and program management to the implementation of PIJAC's new Strategic Plan. ■



Michael Maddox

Vice President of Government Affairs & General Counsel

As with many children, pets were a part of Michael's home as early in life as he can recall. "We had all kinds of pets" he notes. "Dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters, gerbils, bunnies, reptiles...the list goes on and on, including the turtles with the little plastic palm trees." A heartbreaking event he remembers to this day occurred when he was only five. "We were taking a three month trip to Europe, which was wonderful. But it involved giving our dog to a family friend, which incited my threat that I would rather stay home." He didn't stay home, of course, but got a new puppy upon his return to the United States. That dog remained Michael's constant companion for the next 16 years, through multiple family moves and into college.

When he was young, Michael and his brother regularly discussed plans to open a pet store together, and he has passed this love of pets on to his children as well. "I feel strongly that pets can be a child's most reliable companion" he said, "and provide valuable life lessons as well." Needless to say, pets continue to be an important part of Mike's family. While the plans for a pet store never materialized, the opportunity to devote his professional career to promotion of pets has led to Michael's 14-plus years working for PIJAC...and counting.

"What makes my job with PIJAC exciting is that I am constantly working on a whole

host of issues involving the entire spectrum of pet animals." Michael honed his legislative and legal skills working in state government for several years after graduating law school, but since that time has spent his entire career in the private sector working for the pet industry. His lifelong love of pets has led to his conviction that all people should have the right to keep companion animals, but are obliged to do so responsibly.

During his tenure with PIJAC he has lived that conviction by fighting to prevent legal barriers to the right to breed and sell pet animals while seeking to continually raise the standard of care accorded animals in the pet industry. "It saddens me," says Michael "to encounter people who actually oppose the keeping of pets. They apparently don't appreciate the great joy that people receive from these companions, and obviously don't comprehend the positive feelings the pets receive in return." Thus Michael's passion for pets translates into a passion to help assure a vibrant pet industry now and into the indefinite future. ■



Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council

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Legislative and Regulatory News

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(along with several other organizations) for an extension. FWS will publish this new comment period soon. Monitor the PIJAC website's "Breaking News" page and PIJAC's Blog (<http://actnow4constrictors.blogspot.com>) for latest news on this issue.

Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) and Representative Samuel S. Farr (D-CA) introduced companion bills, **H.R. 5424** and **S. 3824**, in the Senate and House of Representatives titled the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (PUPS). This legislation amending the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), which was introduced in similar form in the 110th Congress, 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. In introducing the bill, Senator Durbin specifically pointed to the recently released USDA Inspector General's report addressing AWA enforcement by the federal agency, saying the bill "will close the loophole that allows large breeders to sell puppies online, escaping inspection and oversight." Although there are no reliable figures as to the extent of puppy sales online in the United States, such sales have been raised as a concern in recent years. S 3424 was assigned to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, and H.R. 5434 was assigned to the Committee on Agriculture in the House of Representatives where both await committee hearings.

LOCAL ORDINANCE NEWS

New Orleans, Louisiana. The New Orleans City Council unanimously adopted an ordi-

nance on May 6th mandating spay/neuter requirements as well as permits for intact dogs. The ordinance requires owners or keepers to spay/neuter all dogs over six months old. Owners or keepers who choose not to spay/neuter will be allowed to obtain an "intact dog permit" from the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. In order to obtain a permit an owner or keeper must submit a permit application to the Society; pay an initial \$10 permit application fee plus the \$20 annual permit fee. The Society will decide whether to grant a permit depending on a list of conditions including microchipping requirements, litter restrictions, etc. Anyone who fails to comply with the ordinance will face fines of up to \$100 per dog for a first violation; up to \$250 per dog for a second violation and a third violation will result in impoundment and fines of up to \$500 per dog.

King County, Washington (Seattle). The King County, Washington Board of Health adopted regulations for pet-related businesses, which were originally proposed in 2009. The new regulations became effective on March 1, 2010. The county now requires permits and inspects animal shelters, commercial kennels, pet daycares, pet food retail businesses, pet grooming services, pet shops, satellite pet adoption facilities and poultry retailers. Anyone operating a hobby kennel or cattery outside the city of Seattle may need a license from their local jurisdiction and/or King County Animal Care and Control Licensing Services. The permit period is from March 1 to February 28 (29) and must be renewed annually. Permit fees range from \$60 to \$291 depending on category as designated by the Board. ■

PetLetter

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