



## EL PASO PET BAN ADVANCES

**\*\* SCHEDULED FOR JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING \*\***

### The Issue.

An initiative to ban the sale of dogs and cats in El Paso moved another step closer to passage as the City Council scheduled the proposal for introduction on next week's regular agenda. A date for public hearing on the proposal has been set for **August 10, 2010**. The Council generally does not accept public comment during introduction of ordinances. **The proposal would ban the sale of dogs and cats by pet stores as of September 1, 2010, although it does include a grandfather clause covering animals already in a pet store prior to that date.**

### The Impact.

Under the proposed ordinance, pet stores would no longer be permitted to sell dogs and cats, but "may sell other living creatures including, but not limited to fish, birds, rodents, insects, arachnids, and reptiles" as otherwise allowed under law. Other persons would also be prohibited from selling dogs and cats except for those who hold a valid breeder's license and litter permit. Litter permits do not authorize "the sale of any puppies or kittens from the litter(s)" although such animals may be transferred "at no cost to the new owner."

Animal welfare organizations, however, are authorized under the ordinance to transfer dogs and cats for fees "to recover costs and for other purposes consistent with the organization's non-profit status." The proposal also specifically provides that pet stores may allow animal welfare organizations to use the pet store's premises for the transfer of dogs and cats that are at least a year old.

Transactions or exhibits involving animals are also subject to record-keeping requirements. Records must show "the date, type of animal, type of activity, and parties" involved in any transaction or transfer of an animal.

### PIJAC Position.

PIJAC strongly supports the right to keep pets, and the right of pet owners to have options as to where they obtain their companion animals based on the pet owner's individual circumstances, needs and preferences. Pet stores provide healthy, responsibly raised pets to the public, and should serve as one of the options pet owners may turn to in choosing a companion animal, including a dog or cat. Discriminatory bans against the sale of animals by pet stores are poor public policy, and are harmful to pets and pet owners. Such bans do not benefit animals or the pet owning public.

### Recommended Action.

**While this ban is currently limited to dogs and cats, it can easily be expanded to include other pet animals, as has been proposed in other jurisdictions. The effect of this proposal is to limit the availability of pets and so it essentially imposes a restriction on keeping pets. All pet owners, pet stores and those who care about the right to keep pet animals are strongly encouraged to immediately contact members of the City Council (see the list below for contact information) to**

**voice opposition to this anti-pet proposal.** You may wish to make the following points, in your own words:

- Banning the sale of pet store animals will not ensure pet owners adopt shelter animals. Those who choose pet store animals do so for many reasons, including the reality that the pet of their choice may not even be available for adoption.
- Dogs ending up in shelters rarely came from pet stores. Major studies consistently show that pet store dogs represent a very small percentage of the animals relinquished to shelters.
- Contrary to the claims of some advocates, research demonstrates that pet store puppies are as healthy, or healthier, than puppies from any other source.
- Most pet stores obtain their puppies from responsible breeders, and customers choosing pet store puppies overwhelmingly end up with healthy and well-socialized pets.
- A ban targeting pet stores to protect animals is not rational. Pet stores are already more heavily regulated than any other source of pet animals.
- Regulations on business should be based on a rational relationship between the restrictions and a goal serving the public interest. This proposal does not meet that standard.

**It is also critical that all persons who care about pets and the right to keep pets attend the public hearing on this proposal on August 10, 2010!**

PIJAC will continue to closely monitor this [proposal](#) and will post revised information on the Breaking News page of its website (<http://www.pijac.org/petinformation/breakingnews.asp>) as warranted, along with any new recommendations for action. You are encouraged to check the PIJAC website regularly for additional information. Those having questions about this proposal should contact PIJAC's Michael Maddox via email at [michael@pijac.org](mailto:michael@pijac.org) or by phone at 202-452-1525, ext. 106.

**City of El Paso, Texas  
City Council  
2 Civic Center Plaza  
El Paso, TX 79901  
915/541-4000  
<http://www.ci.el-paso.tx.us/government.asp>**

<u>COUNCILMEMBER</u>	<u>TEL. #</u>	<u>FAX #</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
John Cook, Mayor	915/541-4145	915/541-4501	<a href="mailto:mayor@elpasotexas.gov">mayor@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Ann Morgan Lily (District 1)	915/541-4151	915/541-4380	<a href="mailto:district1@elpasotexas.gov">district1@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Susie Byrd (District 2)	915/541-4416	915/541-4348	<a href="mailto:district2@elpasotexas.gov">district2@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Emma Acosta (District 3)	915/541-4515	915/541-4258	<a href="mailto:district3@elpasotexas.gov">district3@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Carl L. Robinson (District 4)	915/541-4140	915/541-4213	<a href="mailto:district4@elpasotexas.gov">district4@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Rachel Quintana (District 5)	915/541-4701	915/541-4360	<a href="mailto:district5@elpasotexas.gov">district5@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Eddie Holguin, Jr. (District 6)	915/541-4182	915/541-4262	<a href="mailto:district6@elpasotexas.gov">district6@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Steve Ortega (District 7)	915/541-4108	415/541-4134	<a href="mailto:district7@elpasotexas.gov">district7@elpasotexas.gov</a>
Beto O'Rourke (District 8)	915/541-4123	915/541-4300	<a href="mailto:district8@elpasotexas.gov">district8@elpasotexas.gov</a>

### **PIJAC Members! PIIAC 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](http://www.pijac.org/membership). For additional information on PIJAC and its many exciting campaigns, please visit: [www.pijac.org](http://www.pijac.org) and [www.dontmesswithmypet.org](http://www.dontmesswithmypet.org). Or, contact us at 1-800-553-PETS (1-800-553-7387); [members@pijac.org](mailto:members@pijac.org).

**On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!**